NEWS / A9

US Senate immigration bill to unite Filipino veterans with kin

PROPERTY / B2-1

The kind of real estate OFWs prefer to buy in their homeland

NEWS/ A2

Atong Ang released on 2-year probation; conditions include planting trees

NEWS/ A9

Palparan's presence in Lanao polls questioned

DOJ junks slay raps vs Boratong; PNP shocked

By Leila B. Salaverria and Nancy Carvajal

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ HAS cleared Amin Imam Boratong, the suspected owner of the P900-million shabu market in Pasig City, and three others of murder charges for the killing of a GMA 7 informant who had infiltrated the drug compound in November 2005 before it was raided by the police in February

DOJ JUNKS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, May 26, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 167 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

4 suspects in killing of top cop arrested

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Alcuin Papa

AT LEAST FOUR SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN into custody by the Quezon City Police District in connection with Wednesday night's killing of Makati City deputy chief of police Supt. Jovem Bocalbos.

One of the suspects rounded up by the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit had

4 SUSPECTS/ A4

All eyes on Lanao today

Electoral watchdogs monitoring special polls

By Ryan D. Rosauro, *Inquirer Mindanao* **and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

MARAWI CITY—ON THE EVE of today's crucial special elections that could have an impact on the senatorial races, an official of the country's chief poll watchdog group accused a Commission on Elections officer of supervising operations supposedly aimed at ensuring the victory of Team Unity candidates in Lanao del Sur.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, provincial chair of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), called on the Comelec to strip Rey Sumalipao of his administrative powers as regional election director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Three INQUIRER correspondents separately tried to contact Sumalipao to get his side by calling him but his cell phone appeared to be off.

Dalidig claimed that since Election Day on May 14, Sumalipao had assumed the "chief role in revising the canvassing rules"

ALL EYES/ A8

HOT, HOT SPOT: Inside the Dansalan Medina Masjid mosque in Marawi City, Muslim residents say their noon prayer on the eve of the special election scheduled by the Comelec today. About a hundred thousand voters are expected to cast their ballots. REM ZAMORA

Still 8-2-2 for GO in latest tally for Senate

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WRANGLINGS OVER DISCREPancies in vote tallies and other alleged irregularities yesterday slowed down the official canvassing of votes for senators, as the Genuine Opposition hung on to an 8-2-2 lead with 80 percent of the certificates of canvas tabulated.

The CoCs are vote summaries from the municipal and provincial levels which are being tabulated by the National Board of Canvassers.

Out of five CoCs scheduled to be tallied yesterday, only three were actually tabulated—from Cagayan, Zamboanga del Sur and the vote-rich Bulacan province.

This brought the total number of canvassed CoCs to 72 provinces, 10 cities in Metro Manila, or 80 percent of the total 103 CoCs.

The fight for the Magic 12 in the senatorial contests remained at 8-2-2 in favor of GO when the Commission on Elections adjourned its session at 7:30 last night.

The new votes tallied did not affect the ranking of the candidates in the winning circle, with Loren Legarda (GO) still at the forefront.

STILL/ A6

ELEKSYON 2007 COMELEC

100% of 154 overseas absentee voters CoCs,
82 local CoCs out of 104
As of 7:30 p.m. May 25, 2007

1	LEGARDA, Loren	14,555,597
2	ESCUDERO, Francis	14,391,466
3	LACSON, Panfilo	12,118,055
4	VILLAR, Manuel	12,036,800
5	PANGILINAN, Francis	11,311,234
6	AQUINO, Benigno	11,156,901
7	ANGARA, Edgardo	9,577,291
8	CAYETANO, Alan	9,185,337
9	ARROYO, Joker	9,028,185
10	HONASAN, Gregorio	8,969,448
11	TRILLANES, Antonio	8,684,945
12	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	8,291,403
13	RECTO, Ralph	8,193,421
14	ZUBIRI, Miguel	8,189,335
15	DEFENSOR, Michael	7,520,112
16	PICHAY, Prospero	7,303,182
17	ROCO, Sonia	6,632,240
18	MONTANO, Cesar	5,871,204
19	SOTTO, Vicente	5,826,764
20	OSMENA, John	5,402,010

TU scores big zero in Navotas

By Nancy Carvajal

ONCE AGAIN THE COASTAL town of Navotas has proven that it's an opposition bailiwick.

Based on the official count of the Commission on Elections, the Genuine Opposition dominated the Senate race in the locality with 10-2-0. Two slots went to independent candidates and none for Team Unity.

All GO candidates, except for

TU SCORES/ A6

GO presents 'proof' of cheating in South

By Norman Bordadora

SWORN STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) detailing election fraud in Maguindanao have been secured by the Genuine Opposition and progressive party-list groups.

The affidavits—secured by the GO-Party-List Task Force Poll Watch through interviews conducted by members of the Suara Bangsamoro early this week—comprise the first documentary evidence of fraud in Maguindanao and will be used by the task force to seek the voiding of the elections there, which resulted in a 12-0 sweep of the administration's Team Unity.

In his affidavit, a 51-year-old man said he and his fellow BEI members were taken from the treasurer's office on May 14 to a banana patch where they filled out ballots while armed men stood guard.

He said they were taken to the National Irrigation Administration office in Shariff Aguak when night fell on Election Day and kept on "standby" the entire May 15 before the counting of votes started much later, on the evening of May 16.

The BEI member asked that his name and that of his town be withheld until he deems it safe to face the Commission on Elections.

In his own affidavit, BEI poll clerk Faisal Kalantungan said 38 ballot boxes and 190 election returns (ERs) had yet to be picked up from the Pagalungan municipal council

GO PRESENTS/ A8

JESS YUSON

ENRICHING EXPERIENCE: President Arroyo returns on Friday from what is being billed as one of the most successful trips in her presidency. Trade Secretary Peter Favila cites that Ms Arroyo's 3-day visit to Japan netted the $1.2-B investment of Sumitomo Mining Co.

Party-list voters surge in Zambo Sur, Tawi-Tawi

By Christian V. Esguerra

WAS IT ANOTHER CASE OF election fraud, or were the voters in two Mindanao provinces suddenly just too keen on party-list groups?

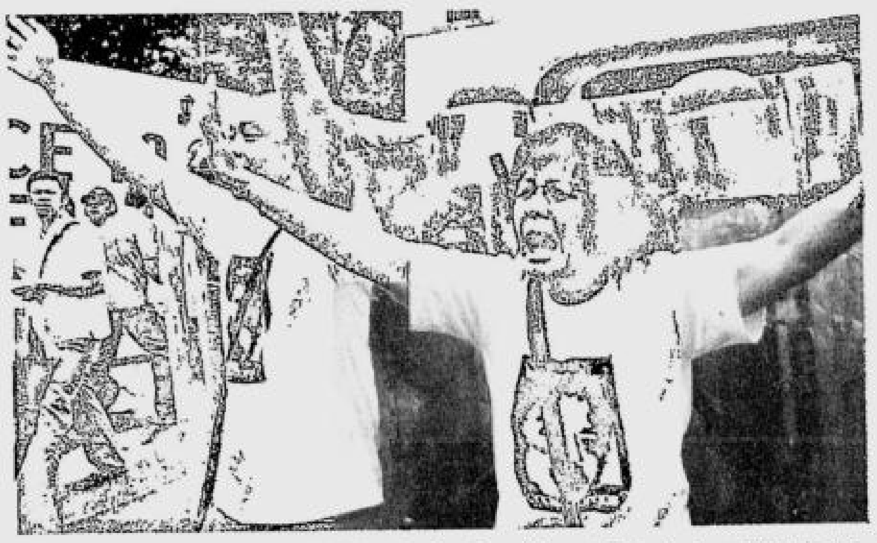
Zamboanga del Sur yielded a voter turnout of 322,807 for party-list groups alone, representing a 219-percent increase from the party-list elections just three years ago, according to the Task Force Poll Watch of the Genuine Opposition and five militant party-list groups.

Not to be outdone, Tawi-Tawi registered an 89-percent voter turnout for party-list groups, drawing even more suspicion from the task force. This is because, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño pointed out yesterday, the national average for the increase in total party-list votes this year was only 30 percent.

"So it's either the people in these two provinces raised their political awareness on party-list groups all of a sudden, or there was massive vote manipulation," Casino told the INQUIRER at the task force's headquarters in Quezon City.

He said the second possibility seemed much more convincing, considering the huge number of addition-

PARTY-LIST/ A8



WEAPONS OF DISTRACTION. Wanting for the military to listen to her plaint about her missing son Jonas, Edita Burgos goes to Camp Aguinaldo with son JL (left) and ex-Vice President Teofisto Guingona. But her voice is drowned out by "Jumbo Hotdog" music played at full volume over loud speakers. *(Story on page A5.)* JOAN BONDOC

'Super Gary' stars in Japan roadshow

By Leah P. Makabenta

TOKYO—HOW DO YOU sell a dry-as-dust presentation on the Philippine economy to overseas Filipino workers?

Mount a slide show featuring Super Gary a.k.a. Finance Secretary Margarito

SUPER/ A6

KAYA NILANG UMARTE NA PARANG SHOWBIZ!

2 RP health projects win World Bank grants

By Doris C. Dumlao

TWO HEALTH-ORIENTED PROJECTS from the Philippines won grants from the $4-million (P184 million) award pool of the 2007 Global Development Marketplace competition held jointly by the World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In a press statement yesterday, the World Bank announced that two projects from the Philippines, together with 20 other projects from 13 countries, won grants in this year's competition titled "Improving Results in Health, Nutrition and Population for the Poor."

The first Philippine winner is a project of Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners Inc. (Approtech Asia) that will train 200 street food vendors in Metro Manila in preparing highly nutritious, hygienic, affordable food packages from indigenous plants and animals and provide common hygienic kitchen facilities for these food vendors.

The other winner is a project of the International Resources Group (IRG)-Philippines that will set up two health banks for the poor in Obando, Bulacan.

The health banks will give out milk, vi-

2 RP HEALTH/ A6

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT
14 9 | 1 8 2 5
Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
0 9 7 | 2 6 1
(All in exact order)
MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 6 11 12 25 35
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western section of Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SYMON TRINOS, PDI RESEARCH/05/25/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Atong Ang released on probation

By Volt Contreras
and Jeanette T. Andrade

AFTER PLEADING GUILTY OF bribing an official in the plunder trial of his crony deposed President Joseph Estrada and spending six months in jail, known casino high-roller Charlie "Atong" Ang walks away a free man after making another big gamble in his life.

The Sandiganbayan special division yesterday allowed the convicted former "consultant" of Estrada to go free, albeit on probation for the next two years, having heard no objections from the prosecution and finding no risk that he might flee.

Ang avoided a possible 40-year prison term by entering into a deal with prosecutors following plea bargaining last January, two months after being extradited from the United States.

He agreed to return to the government P25 million representing his take from the P130 million in tobacco excise tax that he and Estrada "diverted" in 1998. Ang also promised to testify for the state in cases he "has personal knowledge of."

As conditions for his liberty, the antigraft court ordered him to render community service by planting hardwood trees in Quezon City every two months, stay in one address, and "refrain from associating with persons of questionable character."

A casino habitue and one-time state gaming "consultant" of then President Estrada, Ang was also prohibited from engaging in any form of gambling. He was also required to report to his parole officer once a month and seek permission for trips outside Quezon City.

The court said he should also "devote himself to a specific employment" and shall not switch jobs without prior notice to his supervising officer. He shall also "meet his family responsibilities."

"I'm like a child who got lost and now is finding his way again," a soft-spoken Ang told reporters in Filipino, minutes after emerging from a hearing where the Sandiganbayan's special division granted his petition for probation filed two months ago.

Asked if he learned anything from his life in prison, Ang said he found "happiness in small things."

"You avoid trouble. You have to look closely at the people you associate with," he said. "But he said he never regretted any moment of his time in jail.

Complaining recently of chest pains, a swollen foot, and unhealthy jail conditions, the 48-year-old Ang looked relaxed and uncharacteristically more open to media interviews yesterday. His lawyers, Ruth Castelo and Alfredo Villamor, were at his side.

Quezon City jail officials had to check and counter-check if he had other cases filed against him elsewhere in the country. He also had to undergo physical check-up.

Doctors found fading bruises on his chest and a scrape on his left elbow—which he reportedly sustained while playing basketball with other inmates—as well as rashes on his stomach.

The resolution of Ang's case came ahead of those of Estrada's, that of his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and eight other respondents in the landmark, politically-charged criminal case that has dragged on for the last six years.

Asked if he had any message to give to the detained ex-president, Ang said he "hopes he would also manage to solve his problems, like I did. (*Sana malusutan niya mga problema niya, parang ako*)."

He thanked his family for lending him strength. He added that his first act as a free man would be to visit his mother.

After agreeing to a plea bargain and admitting his guilt, Ang was sentenced last March 19 to a prison term of two years and four months to six years for a lesser offense, corruption of public officials in relation to indirect bribery.

Ang fled the country a day before Estrada was ousted through a People Power uprising in January 2001.

He was arrested at a hotel-casino in Las Vegas in November that year by agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, acting on an extradition request from the Philippine government.

A year later, a Nevada federal court granted him bail and allowed him to be placed under house arrest. In October 2004, the US District Court of Nevada found "probable cause" that Ang committed plunder and ruled that he was to be extradited to the Philippines.

GMA trip to Japan yields $1.8B in investment deals

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO arrived yesterday after a four-day trip to Japan where she clinched some $1.86 billion in investment deals and development assistance.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who was part of the President's official delegation during the four-day trip, said the Japan trip was one of Ms Arroyo's most fruitful overseas missions.

Favila said Sumitomo Mining Co. of Japan has committed to invest from $1 billion to $1.2 billion in a nickel mining project in Surigao del Norte. It was the biggest investment deal clinched during the trip, he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said a feasibility study for the nickel mining project is being undertaken and funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. He added that the new nickel mining investment is on top of Sumitomo's $300 million mining expansion project in Palawan.

He said that Marubeni and Tokyo Electric, which made a record-breaking $3.5 billion investment in the Philippines a few months ago, would pump in an additional $100 million and is looking at other power projects.

"Their investment in the Philippines is no mistake," the President said in a statement.

"Japan is sitting up and taking notice that the Philippines is back and open for business. Our economy and gains against poverty are proof the plan is working. So, too, on this trip to Japan we met with business and financial leaders to again tell the Philippine story and encourage them that the Philippine turnaround is here to stay, that our politics have stabilized, and that we are the best value in Asia," Ms Arroyo said.

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JPEPA faces rough sailing, GMA admits

DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that Japan will not dump its toxic wastes in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday admitted that the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement could face rough-sailing in the opposition-dominated Senate.

"I explained to them that we live in a lively democracy, like Japan. Opposition is part of democracy and is expected in the Senate ratification process," Ms Arroyo said after she returned from her trip to Japan yesterday.

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4 suspects in killing of top cop arrested

From page A1

been positively identified by a witness as one of the five robbers responsible for Bocalbos' death.

The suspect, Bernardino Peralta, 37, reportedly a member of the Sputnik gang, has been detained at the CIDU after he was allegedly recognized by Bocalbos' relative, whose identity has been withheld.

The witness reportedly accompanied Bocalbos, 38, while he was moonlighting as a public utility vehicle driver ferrying passengers from Quezon Avenue to Almar-Zabarte Road in Novaliches, Quezon City. Bocalbos was shot at the back of the head by suspects who fled with the passenger's valuables and the police officer's service firearm.

According to a source who requested anonymity, Peralta's alleged membership with the Sputnik Gang shows that he has been in and out of jail.

The QCPD officials refused to provide further details about the arrest of the suspects, particularly on Peralta, claiming that their follow-up operations against the other robbers might be jeopardized.

Premonition

Bocalbos' widow, 35-year-old Maria Cristina, told the INQUIRER that on the day her husband was killed, their 12-year old daughter had a bad dream.

"*Napanaginipan niya na may nangyaring masama sa Daddy niya* (She dreamt that something bad happened to her Daddy)," Maria Cristina told the INQUIRER.

On Wednesday morning, her daughter Jill Christie dreamt of her father pleading for help.

"*Nasa loob daw ng sasakyan ang* Daddy *niya tapos nakita lang niya na humihingi ng tulong doon sa* side mirror (Her Daddy was inside a vehicle. She saw him in the side mirror pleading for help)," she said.

Pleading for help

In the dream, the Bocalbos family were inside the Nissan Urvan Escapade vehicle waiting for Maria Cristina to return from a fastfood restaurant. Suddenly, someone opened the front passenger seat and attacked the police officer. Jill Christie looked in the vehicle's side mirror and saw her father pleading for help.

The 12-year-old girl woke up with a start and told her mother about the dream.

Maria Cristina wanted to send a text message or call her husband to tell him about the dream and to warn him against going out that night to ferry passengers.

"*Kaya lang hindi ko na nagawa. Inisip ko na wala lang siguro iyong panaginip ng anak ko. Tapos ito na nga ang nangyari*(But I never got around to doing it. I thought nothing of my daughter's dream, then this happened)," she said.

Only on off hours

Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao has clarified that policemen are allowed to moonlight but only when they are off duty and only in lawful and legal businesses.

"Certainly during their off duty [hours] they can engage in meaningful livelihood activities which should not be in conflict with the interest of the government, especially with the police service. Also, they should not make use of government time and government resources," Pagdilao said.

He made the clarification after reports came out that Bocalbos was murdered by holdup men while moonlighting ferrying passengers for additional income.

But Pagdilao warned that PNP personnel are not allowed to take on other jobs at the expense of the PNP's time and if they receive "double compensation."

Salary increase?

He said if policemen's salaries were to be increased, a corresponding increase would have to be granted to workers in the private sector.

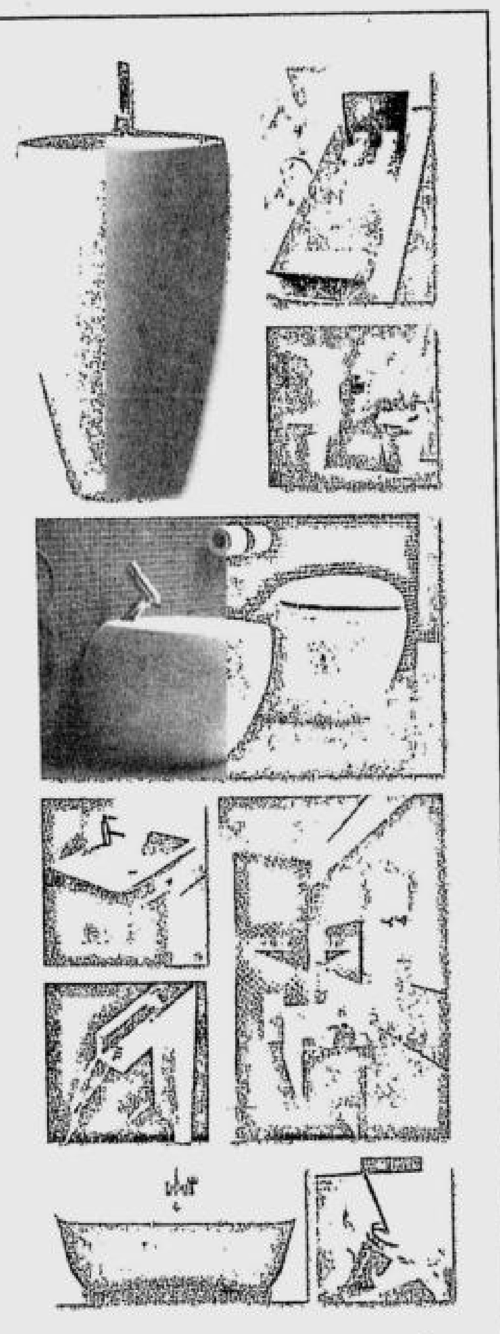
He noted that the current salaries were only enough for unmarried law enforcers.

"It really depends on their lifestyle and needs. If they have children, they have to provide education and medical attention. In the provinces, the salaries are OK. In some cities [in Metro Manila], local government units (LGUs) provide assistance," Pagdilao said.

Some LGUs in Metro Manila provide additional allowance to their employees, including teachers and policemen.

Pagdilao also explained that upon the death of a policeman, the benefits given to his family would be "automatic." Any additional benefits, like scholarships for the children would be subject to the deliberation of the PNP leadership.

FATHER FIGURE: With his arms about the family of his slain brother, Makati deputy police chief Jovem Bocalbos, SPO2 Pablo Bocalbos of the Pasay City Police is a comforting presence at the Funeraria Filipinas in Las Piñas. The bereaved family includes wife Maria Cristina, children Jack Luis and Jill Christie. RAFFY LERMA



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DOJ junks slay raps ...

From page A1

last year.

In a May 23 resolution, Gonzalez reversed the finding of Department of Justice prosecutors and said there was no sufficient evidence to charge Boratong, his wife Memie Sultan Boratong, PO2 Ramir Along and Nashir Labay for the death of German Colisao, who was reportedly caught with a hidden video camera inside the compound located just a few hundred meters from Pasig City Hall and Pasig police headquarters.

Police authorities expressed shock at Gonzalez' decision.

"We are disheartened with the decision because this is a huge setback of our legal offensive campaign against illegal drugs," said Police Director Geary Barias, the commandeer of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSSOTF) and head of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

In his decision, Gonzalez questioned the credibility of witness Samer Palao and ordered the withdrawal of the information for murder filed against the respondents in court. Palao is said to be Boratong's brother, but Palao denies kinship with the drug suspect.

Insider was trusted ally

Palao claimed that he was a trusted ally of Boratong, an insider who supposedly knew the extent of Boratong's alleged drug operations.

According to Gonzalez, the evidence failed to show that the respondents were responsible for Colisao's death.

"After a careful scrutiny of the evidence of record, we hold that complainants failed to clearly establish that probable cause exists against herein respondents for the crime charged," he said.

Gonzalez however clarified that the dropping of murder charges against Boratong would not affect the latter's case for allegedly operating the Pasig shabu market, in which Palao is also a witness.

"These are different cases. He can be a murderer without being a shabu vendor and vice versa," he said.

Palao had told police that the Boratong couple ordered Colisao killed after the latter was discovered taking video footage of the shabu market on Nov. 14, 2005.

GMA 7 'asset'

Colisao was allegedly kept at the Mapayapa compound. A barangay official went to Boratong's house to look for Colisao with a promise from GMA 7 that the TV network would not air the video footage if Colisao was released, but Memie denied keeping him. She then allegedly ordered Colisao killed.

Police said Colisao was killed on Nov. 17, 2005. His body, with three gunshot wounds, was dumped on a Pasig street.

'Walk-in complainant'

Police also said that Colisao was an asset of the GMA 7 show "Imbestigador." Police had furnished the INQUIRER a purported letter from a GMA 7 "researcher" seeking police assistance in locating Colisao. The letter bore a GMA 7 logo and was signed by "Israel del Mundo, Researcher."

But Viney Ibarra of GMA 7's law department earlier said Colisao was not a paid informant of the network but a "walk-in complainant ... who volunteered to observe goings-on in this Pasig community."

According to Gonzalez, Palao's statement was not backed by corroborative evidence that would lead to the conclusion that nobody but the respondents could have done the alleged crime.

"Simply put, the circumstances as reflected under the sworn statement of Palao failed to present a complete chain of events leading to no other conclusion that Boratong spouses authored the killing of Colisao and carried out by respondents Along and [L]abay," he said.

Misgivings

The justice secretary also said his office has misgivings about the credibility of Palao's statements.

Gonzalez pointed out that Palao was charged with kidnapping and murder for the death of Memie's brother, and he could have used the murder charge for Colisao's death as leverage to counter his case.

"It is quite possible that he may have harbored ill-motives so as to compel himself to falsely testify against respondent-spouses Boratong as leverage for the said case," he said.

Gonzalez also wondered why it took Palao so long to reveal what he knew.

He said the nine-month delay between Colisao's death and Palao's revelation about the identity of the killers renders his testimony dubious. He noted that Palao only came out with his statements after he was charged with the death of Memie's brother.

Leverage

Palao also offered, on record, to drop the cases in which he testified against the respondents if they would also drop the kidnapping and murder case against him, Gonzalez said.

Palao also failed to refute Along's claim that he was in Camp Bagong Diwa when Colisao was supposedly killed.

"Finally, these observations persuaded us to conclude that the present complaint may have been skillfully concocted by private complainant Palao so as to create leverage against Boratong spouses with the end view of evading himself from the earlier charges filed by Memie's relative against him," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez earlier questioned Palao's credibility as a witness in Boratong's case for allegedly operating the shabu market, the discovery of which shocked many because the illegal drugs were being sold openly.

On Feb. 10, 2006, the police raided the place and took more than 300 people into custody, including about 50 women and children.

Authorities believed the Pasig shabu market, which started in 1997, had grown to a P900-million industry by the time police demolished it in February last year.

The DOJ chief had described Palao as a "polluted witness" and also believes the evidence against Boratong was weak.

Loud music, truncheons turn away Burgos protesters

By Christine O. Avendano

CAMP AGUINALDO yesterday used loud music and shields to drive away protesters at their gates led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who had had come to demand that they produce kidnapped activist Jonas Burgos.

The demonstrators, which included Jonas' mother Edita Burgos and members of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Bayan Muna, were blocked by powerful audio speakers which blasted them with the songs "Pasaway" by J Brothers, "Kiliti" by Baywalk Bodies and "Jumbo Hotdog" by Masculados.

Appeals by Guingona and Burgos to turn down the music so they could air their grievances were turned down by camp officials, afterwhich they were pushed away by riot police. The rally of about 40 people dispersed after about 15 minutes.

The military has denied it had anything to do with the abduction of Jonas Burgos, son of the late press freedom icon Joe Burgos, at a mall in Quezon City on April 28. But the plate number of the vehicle used by the kidnappers was traced to an impounded vehicle at the 56th Infantry Batallion compound in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Aside from refusing to hear the demonstrators, the military has also so far refused to speak to police investigators.

A press statement sent to media yesterday by the police Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) confirmed that two soldiers surfaced at their offices on Thursday, a day after a summons deadline, and in the face of warnings that they would be cited for contempt if they did not appear.

However, Corporal Castro Bugalon and Private First Class Jose Villena, both assigned to the 56th IB, did not give a statement regarding the license plate of a vehicle that was reportedly in their possession.

Instead, the police statement said the two soldiers, who came in complete uniform, assured them they would return on Monday accompanied by their superior officer, Lieutenant Colonel Melquiades Feliciano.

Feliciano was suspended after the 56th IB claimed the license plate used in the abduction of Burgos (TAB-194)had been "stolen" from their compound.

The vehicle was supposedly seized by a team from the Army and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in June 2006 for transporting illegal lumber. Since then the vehicle was in the custody of the 56th IB. *With reports from Alcuin Papa*

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Comelec puts Maguindanao vote result on hold

By Nikko Dizon

DESCRIBED BY AN ELECTION lawyer as "a classic example of a manufactured document with sham results," the controversial certificate of canvass (CoC) from Maguindanao was again returned and sealed inside the ballot box after the National Board of Canvassers decided to defer its tabulation until the election returns (ERs) could be examined for authenticity.

The move announced by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. was met with polite applause in the packed session hall at the national canvassing center. Lawyers of opposition senatorial candidates gave each other a low five and a pat on the back.

Abalos said that "with the admission of Attorney [Lintang] Bedol that not one from the opposition was present [during the provincial canvass], none of the copies [of the provincial CoC] for the dominant minority has been furnished, and considering the number of zeros in the CoC, the board has resolved to defer the canvassing of this particular CoC."

The National Board of Canvassers (NBC) ordered Maguindanao's election officers to appear at the national canvassing center by Wednesday with the ERs, the primary source document of all votes tallied in the province.

Hot seat

In the hot seat was Bedol, the provincial election supervisor in Maguindanao, who appeared at the national canvassing yesterday after being summoned by the Comelec en banc sitting as the NBC.

He calmly responded to questions from candidates' lawyers trying to establish the authenticity of the document. But he could not give specific answers except to say that the copies of the provincial CoC supposedly for the dominant minority party and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) remained in his office, unclaimed.

He said Faizal Kalantungan, who had submitted an affidavit stating that some 190 ERs remained uncanvassed in the town of Pagalungan, was not an election inspector. *(See story on Page A1.)*

The case of Pagalungan was among those presented by the lawyers yesterday before the NBC as one of the reasons why the canvass of the Maguindanao CoC should be deferred.

"The [document] is probably a classic example of an obviously manufactured, statistically improbable CoC reflecting manufactured and sham results in the province of Maguindanao," said Leila de Lima, counsel for the Genuine Opposition's Alan Peter Cayetano.

Only 18 with votes

De Lima said that of the 37 registered candidates for senator, "only 18 were credited with votes and, as reported in the media, it's a 12-0 sweep [of Team Unity]. No. 1 is Luis Chavit Singson and the 12th is [Jamalul] Kiram."

She said 19 other candidates—including Cayetano, Panfilo Lacson, Sonia Roco, John Osmeña, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Antonio Trillanes IV and Nikki Coseteng of GO—had scored zero.

A photograph of the CoC shown to reporters showed that among those who also got zero votes were Kapatiran's Martin Bautista, Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison; independent candidate Richard Gomez; and all KBL candidates including Joselito Pepito Cayetano.

One after the other, for over an hour, De Lima and other lawyers of various senatorial candidates argued before the NBC, composed of Abalos and Commissioners Nicodemo Ferrer, Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason and Romeo Brawner, on why the canvass of the Maguindanao CoC should be deferred.

Noynoy Aquino's lawyer said it was "an affront to the memory of [the martyred] Ninoy Aquino" that his son received no votes in Maguindanao.

Lacson's lawyer said it could only be that the candidate's supporters in Maguindanao were "either killed or brought to another place."

Motion denied

Trillanes' lawyer asked for the deferment of the canvass of the Maguindanao CoC until the Comelec task force formed to look into the purported fraud could come up with its findings.

The NBC denied the motion of Aquilino Pimentel III's lawyer not to open the ballot box from Maguindanao on the basis of the fraud reported in the media.

Abalos stressed the need for election lawyers to inspect the CoC before they could claim that it had been tampered with.

Opposition lawyer Sixto Brillantes told the INQUIRER that he did not want the Maguindanao CoC excluded from the canvass, as petitioned by Pimentel, as it would effectively mean the disenfranchisement of the province's voters.

TU lawyer Romulo Macalintal pointed out that none of the lawyers had said the CoC was tampered with or manufactured, suggesting that it was genuine and therefore should be canvassed.

Moreover, he said the administration would "join the opposition" in the investigation of alleged fraud in Maguindanao should the latter be able to present "material evidence" of irregularity.

"But please, let us not accuse our Muslim brothers and sisters of fraud," Macalintal said.

Letter to Sarmiento

Earlier, officers of various poll watchdog groups asked the Comelec to "defer or suspend" the canvass of the Maguindanao CoC amid fears that a "rework" of the results of the senatorial race is in progress.

In a letter addressed to Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, the groups asked that the poll body complete first its planned investigation of the supposed fraud in Maguindanao before beginning the canvass in the province.

At the same time, they also asked that the poll body "secure the safety and integrity of the ballot boxes in Maguindanao."

The letter was signed by Howard Calleja, national legal counsel of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting; Namfrel secretary general Eric Alvia; Vicente B. Salazar and Carlos Medina Jr. of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections; and Dr. Benjamin Tolosa Jr.

Namfrel distributed copies of the letter to reporters. *With reports from Tarra Quismundo and Cathy C. Yamsuan*

TU scores big zero in Navotas

From page A1

former Sen. John Osmeña, made it to the winning circle, while two slots were claimed by former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and reelectionist Sen. Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan.

In the cities of Malabon and Valenzuela, where local positions were dominated by administration bets, TU did not fare well with 8-2-2 in favor of the opposition.

The official tally also showed Rep. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, topping the senatorial race in the three localities.

No cheating in Navotas

Reelected Mayor of Navotas, Tobias "Toby" Tiangco, said: "Navotas delivered. The opposition candidates won without resorting to cheating."

Romeo Soriano, district coordinator of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) in Navotas, affirmed this.

"Except for missing names, the election here was clean," Soriano said.

Tiangco explained that unlike other areas where a sweep had been reported, "it was hard work, a vigorous campaign and the credibility of local candidates running under the opposition that [brought us] victory."

Tiangco ran against and defeated Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval.

Proxy fight?

Touted as a proxy fight between deposed President Joseph Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo, Tiangco is the spokesperson of Estrada's political party, Pwersa ng Masa, in the National Capital Region, while Sandoval is a strong supporter of Ms Arroyo.

Sandoval maintained it was not a proxy fight.

Tiangco said the 10-2-0 outcome in Navotas affirmed the state of politics in his town.

"The people of Navotas had always been an opposition bailiwick. We gave the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. his biggest margin in Metro Manila over Ms Arroyo in the 2004 elections," he said.

Tiangco's reelection bid was endorsed by Estrada and Poe's wife, Susan Roces.

Top 12 in Navotas

The Navotas statement of votes showed that Escudero got 68,475 votes followed by Loren Legarda, 68,062; Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, 61,419; Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, 54,915; Manuel Villar, 51,463; Alan Peter Cayetano, 51,242; Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, 45,083; Antonio Trillanes IV, 43,192; Pangilinan, 39,378; Honasan, 37,174; Sonia Roco, 36,485; Nikki Coseteng 32,650.

Osmeña is in the 13th slot with 31,398 followed by Eduardo Angara, 27,004; Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, 24,714; Joker Arroyo, 24,673.

Navotas is composed of 14 barangays with a total of 613 precincts and an estimated 120,000 registered voters.

Valenzuela, Malabon

Team Unity did not also fare well in the northern part of Metro Manila where most residents live below poverty line.

In Valenzuela City, the GO dominated the senatorial contest, despite the strong presence of administration local candidates from Kampi and Lakas-CMD.

Reelectionists Arroyo and Angara were the only ones who made it to the 9th and 12th slot respectively.

Malabon City, supposedly the bailiwick of TU candidate former Sen. Tessie Oreta, also failed to push the administration candidates. Oreta ranked 12th, just a few hundred votes more than GO candidate Sonia Roco.

Oreta's brother-in-law, incumbent Canuto Oreta, ran unopposed for mayor.

The other TU bet in the 11th slot was reelectionist Angara.

Failure of elections intentional—Moro group

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS might have blamed the postponement of the May 14 elections in 13 towns in Lanao del Sur on election officers and workers being too afraid to report for work, but certain quarters believe the move was intentional.

"The postponement of elections would give the administration a chance to maneuver the results to help their candidates who are faring poorly to be in the Magic 12," Zaynab Ampatuan, first nominee of the party-list group Suara Bangsamoro, said yesterday.

Genuine Opposition lawyer Benjamin Lanto wondered why the Comelec did not deploy soldiers to Lanao del Sur on May 14, considering that the poll body supposedly already knew that violence was likely to erupt in the province.

Four of the 13 towns that will hold special elections today also had to hold a special exercise in the 2004 presidential contest.

But Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said the reasons for the postponement of the elections were legitimate.

"These allegations are unfair and baseless. The elections in these towns really failed," he told the INQUIRER.

Still, a mayoral candidate said the postponement would allow "flying voters" to vote again.

These double-registered voters already voted in their hometowns in nearby provinces on May 14. With the special elections, they can vote again using different names, the candidate said.

It is easy to spot flying voters, according to a van driver.

They arrive aboard jeeps from other towns and cities. Native residents don't know them, he said.

And they have many reasons to risk their lives: From P2,000 to P7,000 each, according to National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections provincial chair Hadji Abdullah Dalidig.

But Dalidig told the INQUIRER that the election officers were to blame: "They did not do anything. They did not delete the names of questionable registrants."

'Super Gary' stars in Japan roadshow

From page A1

Teves kapowing fiscal deficits, huge foreign debt and low revenue collections in the Philippines.

The economic team turned President Macapagal-Arroyo's traveling roadshow, earlier presented to Japanese businessmen to drum up fresh investment, into the Super Gary show when it descended on a hotel room full of Filipino community leaders late Thursday.

In a "Mission Impossible" poster, a make-believe Gary character battled the combination of fiscal deficits, huge foreign debt, low revenue collections, weak peso and high prices that until quite recently were the hallmarks of the Philippine economy.

A group of "Happy Feet" penguins named Armando (Tetangco, central bank governor), Peter (Favila, trade secretary) etc. tap-danced away as they worked on these problems.

Financial irresponsibility almost landed "Gary" and his wife in "The Break-up" but the clouds cleared and they kissed and made up and went on "Holiday," thanks to the formidable team of "X-Men" who used the "Da Vinci Code" to crack the budget deficits, deploying a small army of "Cars" called energy reforms, alternative energy, etc.

The final slide was "The Devil Wears Prada" with the killer stilettos that OFWs would soon be wearing if they buy the proposal that Tetangco and Favila were pitching to them.

Invest, invest, invest

It cracked up the audience and primed [illegible] for the President's predictable "the Philippines is back in business" spiel for foreign investors.

The difference was that this time, she was directing her "invest, invest, invest" mantra at OFWs, a formidable financial force that many credit for keeping the Philippines afloat these many years.

After thanking them for the record $13 billion (P599 billion) in remittances last year, she noted the changing culture of OFW remittances.

She said the money that OFWs was sending was no longer just financing unproductive consumption by their families but was going into savings for use as solid working capital or investment in human capital like education, healthcare and real estate.

Last year, 40 percent of real estate sales came from overseas Filipinos, the President said.

"You have revived our housing and construction industry," she said.

Local job opportunities

She said the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, which she hopes will soon pass Senate scrutiny, will open up the job market in Japan for nurses and caregivers, though not for entertainers.

But she said she was not in favor of going abroad as the only career option for Filipinos, which is why the government was developing the regions to create more economic opportunities at home—agribusiness in Northern Luzon and Mindanao and tourism in the Visayas.

Favila said OFWs could invest in small- and medium-scale enterprises. Some of these were involved in the Otop, the one-village, one-product program that the Philippines has adapted from Japan.

Teves said there are plans to establish an investment fund that OFWs can subscribe to. It will be administered by a board which will decide where the funds are to be invested.

Mutual funds

Tetangco said Philippine banks were being encouraged to offer financial products like equity funds and mutual funds to OFWs.

"We want a portion of what you earn invested so not all of it is used for consumption," he said.

Capt. Dean T. Baes, president of the Philippine Maritime Network, urged the President to lead in the healing of the nation after the contentious elections.

He said they would want their savings used to help build the country's infrastructure while increasing their earnings.

He said the OFWs were relying on the government's reintegration program to help prepare them for their return.

"We have to come home sooner or later," he said.

Photo ops

Baes said the government can also help in the training of seamen in shipbuilding and repair.

It can also help by creating channels of dialogue with foreign employers "so that we can improve our service."

There were about a hundred OFW leaders, some of them coming all the way from Osaka and Hokkaido, who attended the meeting. What they lacked in numbers, they made up in high spirits.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was mobbed when she arrived. And the petite Ms Arroyo was all but lost in the OFWs' scramble to have their photos taken with the President.

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2 RP health projects win World Bank grants

From page A1

min supplements and medicines to children in exchange for recyclable goods.

The winning projects were awarded grant funds of up to $200,000 (P9.2 million).

The Development Marketplace is a competitive grant program that identifies and supports emerging development ideas. It has awarded some $40 million (P1.8 billion) to more than 1,000 projects through global and country-level competitions since 1998.

This year's competition drew a record high of more than 2,900 applicants. Through a vigorous assessment process by health and development experts from inside and outside of the World Bank, the applicants were narrowed down to 104 finalists, who showcased their ideas at the bank's headquarters last May 22-23.

Other RP entries

Nine entries from the Philippines made it to the list of 104 finalists, of which two eventually won. The seven other finalist projects from the Philippines are:

"The Carabao Mosquito Trap: Expanding the Benefits of Carabao from Livelihood and Nutrition into Malaria Protection" of the University of the Philippines;

"Roving Feeding Center: Bringing Nutrition to Malnourished Children in Rural Areas" of LAMBS Agri Mechanical;

"MicroNutrient Express Capsules" of Buhi Marine Worldwide Supply Inc.;

"Health Insurance for Street Children" of Bahay Tuluyan Inc.;

"International 2-Stroke Retrofit Project" of Envirofit International;

"FP on Wheels: Improving Knowledge and Practice of Family Planning (FP) Among Tricycle Drivers," of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America International;

"Information Technology Systems for Tuberculosis" of the University of the Philippines, Manila.

Still 8-2-2 . . .

From page A1

ELEKSYON 2007

COMELEC

100% of 154 overseas absentee voters CoCs,
82 local CoCs out of 104
As of 7:30 p.m. May 25, 2007

21	MAGSAYSAY, Vicente	4,792,674
22	COSETENG, Nikki	4,154,380
23	ORETA, Teresa	3,229,416
24	SINGSON, Luis	3,116,901
25	GOMEZ, Richard	2,115,637
26	KIRAM, Jamalul	1,413,178
27	CHAVEZ, Melchor	648,165
28	BAUTISTA, Martin	553,050
29	PAREDES, Zosimo	530,383
30	CAYETANO, Joselito	381,315
31	SISON, Adrian	283,221
32	LOZANO, Oliver	224,865
33	WOOD, Victor	218,096
34	ESTRELLA, Antonio	215,073
35	CANTAL, Felix	87,823
36	ORPILLA, Eduardo	74,856
37	ENCISO, Ruben	70,143

Francis Escudero (GO) topped the voting in Bulacan, where he garnered 774,344 votes, but remained at No. 2 overall behind Legarda.

Also in the overall race, reelectionist Senators Panfilo Lacson (GO) and Manny Villar (GO) clung to No. 3 and No. 4, respectively.

Independent candidate Francis Pangilinan remained at No. 5 and Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III (GO) at No. 6.

TU's Angara was still at No. 7, ahead of GO's Alan Peter Cayetano by more than 3.9 million votes. Reelectionist Sen. Joker Arroyo (TU) was at No. 9, followed by independent candidate Gregorio Honasan.

GO candidates Antonio Trillanes IV and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III were still grasping the last two slots of the Magic 12.

Pichay No. 2

In the Zamboanga del Sur tally, it was Team Unity's Prospero Pichay—with 165,217 votes—who took second spot behind Legarda.

TU candidates dominated Magic 12 in Zamboanga del Sur. They included Miguel Zubiri, Edgardo Angara, Ralph Recto, Michael Defensor, Joker Arroyo and Vicente Magsaysay.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson took 12th spot in the province.

Big discrepancies

Vote tallies from South Cotabato, which were read out by the NBC, were temporarily set aside after lawyer Leila de Lima pointed out "big discrepancies" of votes earned by Zubiri, Arroyo, Recto, Defensor and Pichay.

Based on the CoC obtained by GO lawyers, Zubiri only earned 141,674 votes in the province, but the Comelec's copy showed him with 218, 674 votes.

The same case applied to Arroyo, who had 102,971 votes in the GO copy but Comelec's copy showed he garnered 212, 972 votes; Recto (94,788/210,788); Defensor (92,880/ 211,880) and Pichay (84,858/ 203,958)

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. deferred the reading of CoCs from Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, Davao del Sur and Muntinlupa.

"After an eventful afternoon, we deserve a rest," he said, asking that the ballot boxes of from those areas be resealed.

The canvassing will resume today at 10 a.m.

GO was also out front, 8-2-2, in the unofficial tally of the National Cititzens'.Movement for Free Elections, as of 7:24 last night. Legarda also held the no. 1 spot in the Namfrel tally from 73.48% of the 224,748 precincts nationwide. *With reports from Cathy Yamsuan, Maan Festejo and Kathleen Olarte*

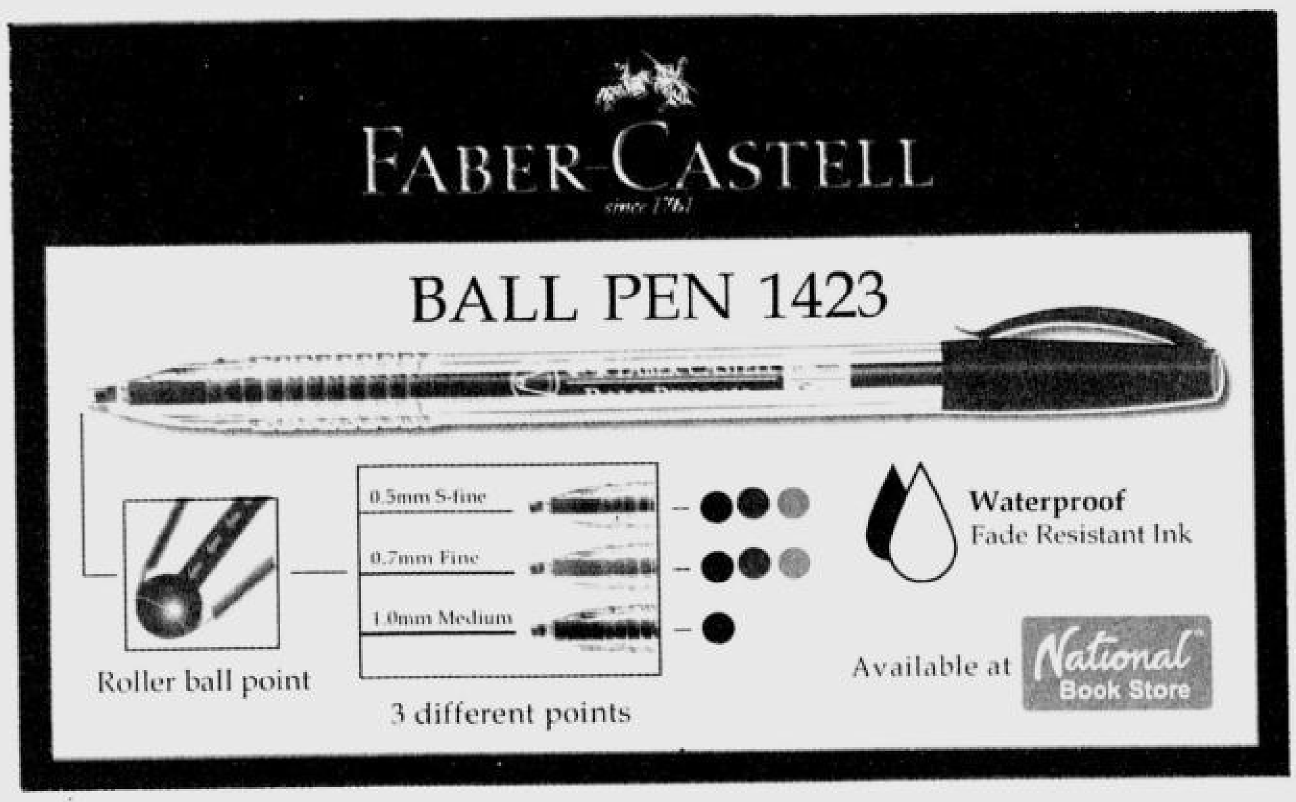
RP democracy has matured, says US envoy

DESPITE ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE, the conduct of the May 14 national elections here showed that democracy in the Philippines has already matured, a visiting senior American diplomat said yesterday.

"You're coming through some elections. I know some problems with violence but I would say overall the elections have been very successful and a real sign that the Philippines has a very well-developed democracy. It has never been an easy process," US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill said in an interview.

Hill arrived in the Philippines Thursday night to attend yesterday's closing session of the Senior Official Meeting (SOM) of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) in which the US is a member. He was scheduled to leave also yesterday.

Cynthia D. Balana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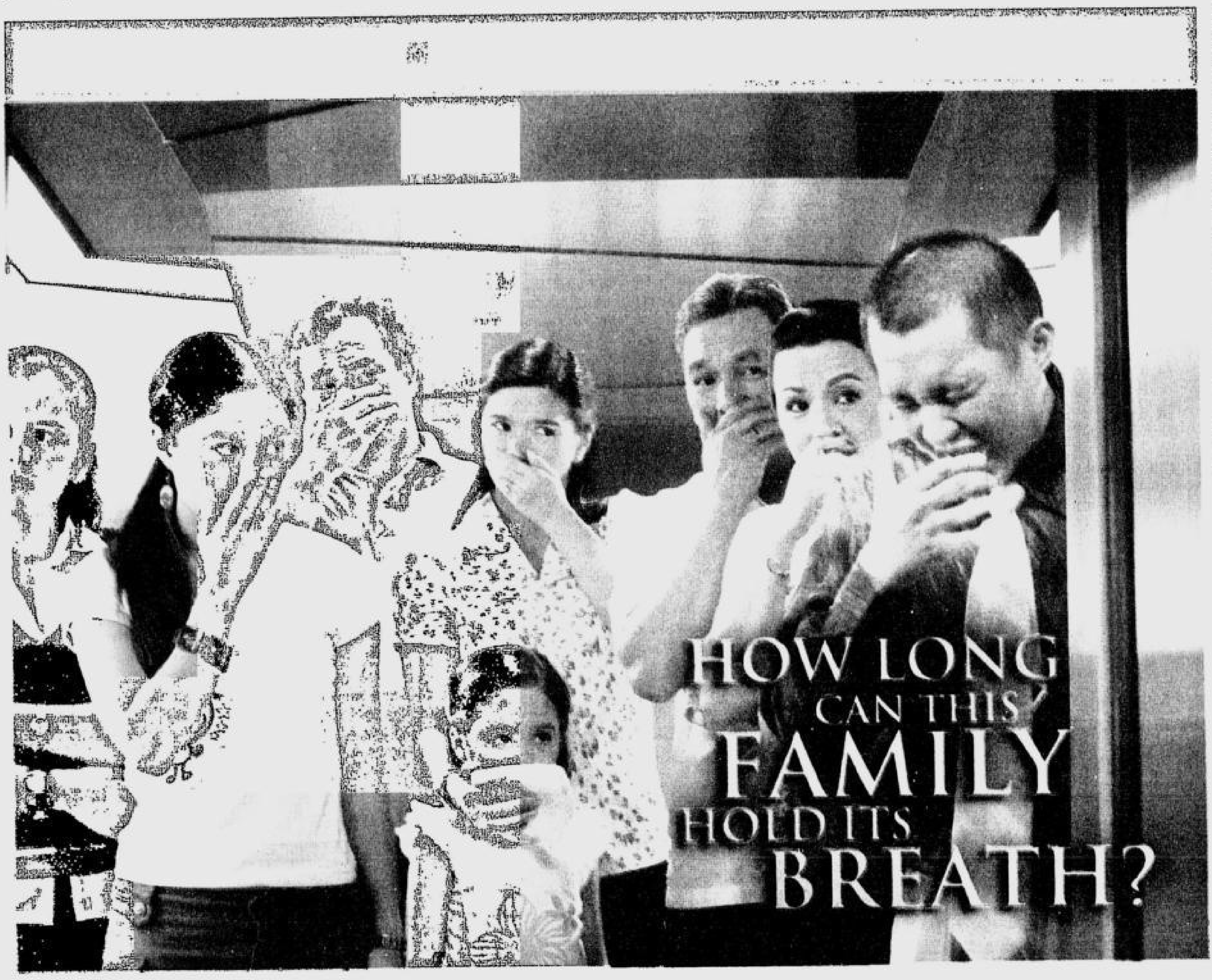
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References:
1. JFK Health World Museum
2. http://www.birdavianflu.com/birdfluairbornetransmission.htm
3. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm

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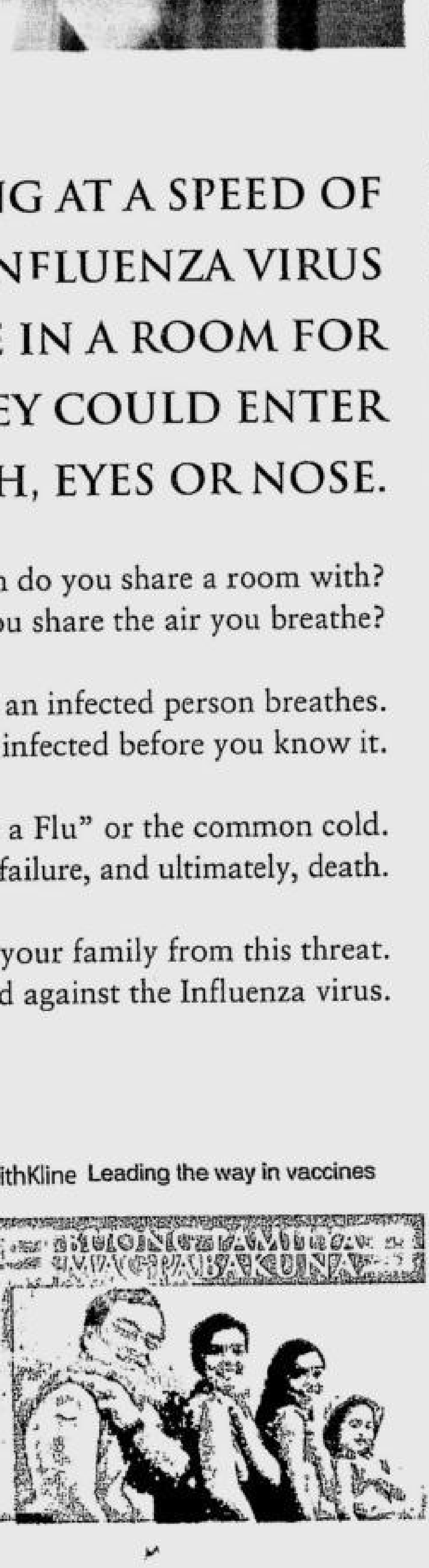
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All eyes on Lanao for special elections today

From page A1

at town levels, including limiting the canvassing of votes in the province "only" to local bets and excluding senatorial and party-list votes.

Dalidig alleged this was the first stage of "dagdag-bawas" (vote-padding-and-shaving) in favor of administration candidates.

"This is already the start of the operation to rework the poll turnout for the senatorial election in Lanao del Sur," he said.

Top 'dogs'

Top leaders of Namfrel and of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and their volunteers have descended on this province to help ensure nobody cheats in today's special elections in 13 Lanao del Sur towns.

The 13 towns—where voting could not be held on May 14 largely because election officers were scared of armed men—have a combined voting population of 96,460.

That is big enough to decide the fate of TU and Genuine Opposition candidates bitterly fighting for the last slots in the race for 12 Senate seats.

Namfrel chair Edward Go arrived yesterday morning while PPCRV national chair Tita De Villa arrived in the afternoon.

"We are here to help ensure the elections will be properly done," Go told the INQUIRER.

"We are hopeful that with the augmentation of different citizen arms, the elections will be properly conducted and the true will of the people will be arrived at."

History of cheating

Lanao del Sur, a part of ARMM, has had a long history of organized cheating.

The Comelec has deputized close to 5,000 soldiers to guard the polls, with units from the Philippine National Police assisting.

"Let us show the country that we can have a clean and peaceful elections," Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, who is personally supervising the special polls, told a group of top police and military officials during a command conference.

"This exercise is very important to the Commission on Elections," Sarmiento said, referring to today's balloting.

Sarmiento said his presence in Lanao del Sur, as commissioner in-charge of ARMM, was meant to "assure our people that the commission is very much concerned" about the conduct of the special elections.

STOP
ARMY CHECKPOINT
'A' COY, 51IB, 1ID, PA

REM ZAMORA

SPECIAL ELECTION LANDSCAPE in Marawi City: Checkpoints in 15 municipalities of Lanao del Sur where a special election is scheduled today.

Cause of concern

But the presence of retired Army Gen. Jovito Palparan and former national police chief Arturo Lomibao caused concern in opposition ranks.

"How come they are here?" GO lawyer Benjamin Lanto said. "There is apprehension that they may be here for another purpose."

Lomibao took part in a command conference of the military and the police on Thursday. Palparan said he came over because he lived in nearby Cagayan De Oro City and wanted to protect the votes of his party list Bantay.

The Inquirer did not see any of them yesterday.

Sarmiento said he did not know why the two showed up at a meeting between him and police and military officials securing the polls.

"They were already there when I arrived," Sarmiento said.

Manufactured tally

Dalidig claimed that by not having an official count of votes in the party-list and senatorial races, "a manufactured figure" would be reflected on the certificates of canvass (CoCs)—or vote tallies—from the towns.

Dalidig said clipping Sumalipao's powers over local election officials, especially during the vote-counting stage, would "demobilize the rigging machine."

He said that in many of the precincts with "questionable vote figures" in the election returns (ERs) from 17 towns of Lanao del Sur, where voting took place on May 14, TU candidates either made a clean sweep or were way ahead of the opposition.

Dalidig also cited Sumalipao's supposed inaction on the issue of Namfrel being denied its copies of the election returns.

"He has not done anything to compel the election officers to hand over the ERs to Namfrel," Dalidig said.

As of Friday morning, Namfrel only has the CoCs of Marawi and Piagapo town.

Sumalipao allegedly played a role in the supposed rigging of election results in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 2004 presidential election.

Garci protegé

Asked who would benefit from the alleged operation, Dalidig said: "*Itong mga nasa administration. Sila ang nasa likod ng* operation. (The people in the administration. They are the ones behind the operation)."

A native of Baroy Lanao del Norte, Sumalipao was provincial election supervisor in Lanao del Sur during the 2004 elections.

The vote fraud scandal in 2004 broke out after the release of the so-called "Hello Garci" tapes dealing with purported phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and retired Election Commissioner Virgilion Garcillano on how to pad up votes for Ms Arroyo.

The President and Garcillano denied they cheated.

A Garcillano protégé, Sumalipao was said to have received cash to rig the polls for Ms Arroyo but Sumalipao denied this.

Highest bidder

Former Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon, who was a campaign manager in Mindanao for then presidential candidate Cory Aquino during the 1986 snap elections, said election operators were offering at least P25 per vote in Mindanao.

But the price could still go up, so ultimately the votes could go to the highest bidders, he said.

Dalidig said Namfrel would deploy one volunteer for each precinct today.

GO's Lanto said he would deploy watchers at the municipal level to safeguard votes for their candidates.

He said they were specifically concerned with Antonio Trillanes IV and Aquilino Pimentel III, who ranked 11th and 12th in a recent Comelec tally. TU candidates Ralph Recto, Miguel Zubiri and Michael Defensor were closely in pursuit.

Lanto said that in some areas in the province where elections pushed through on May 14, the dominant minority, which is Liberal Party, was not given its copy of the ERs, contrary to election rules.

'National attention is here'

"The election officers are afraid we will uncover the discrepancy between the election returns and the certificates of canvass," Lanto said.

Lanto said GO had already written Sarmiento asking him to remind election officers today to provide the Liberal Party with copies of the ERs and CoCs.

Tallying of votes and the canvassing will be centralized at the provincial capitol in Marawi City, just across Camp Ranao.

Instead of tallying being done at the precinct level, all ballots will be transported to the capitol after voting ends this afternoon.

"The focus of national attention is here. I am confident that with the help of the stakeholders, the police and the military, the exercise will be successful," Sarmiento said.

Staff members of the commission's Education and Information Division said they had put up streamers and distributed pamphlets to announce the special elections.

The special elections are to be held in Pualas, Butig, Lumbatan, Marogong, Kapatagan, Sultan Dumalondong, Lumbayanague, Kapai, Madalum, Lumba Bayabao, Masiu, Binidayan and Bayang.

The INQUIRER did not come across any streamer in Madalum, an hour away from Marawi City. Still, the residents appear to be well-informed.

Twenty-seven-year-old resident Alex said he learned about the special polls through news reports.

"People wanted to vote (on May 14) but election officers did not arrive," he said.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and PDI Research

GO presents documentary evidence of cheating in Maguindanao

From page A1

10 days after Election Day and despite the provincial canvass having already taken place.

The GO-Party-List Task Force Poll Watch believes that Maguindanao, with its estimated 300,000 registered voters, can make or break the chances of senatorial candidates, particularly those locked in the close battle for the last positions in the Top 12.

Baffled

This was what the BEI member said in his affidavit, which he signed on May 24: "On May 14, I took five ballot boxes from the treasury office of [our] municipal hall. We boarded a *lawin* (public utility vehicle) which we thought would take us to our precinct. We were baffled because our vehicle went in a different direction.

"When we came upon [a bridge], we were made to board a pump boat to a place where there were many banana patches. It was there that we alighted. When we went down, armed men took all our cell phones and we were given sample ballots.

"[Those sample ballots] contained the names they wanted us to write on the ballots."

The BEI member said that even the armed men filled out the ballots: "They opened the ballot boxes, got the ballots and they themselves wrote. They wrote the names of the Team Unity candidates and even those of local candidates."

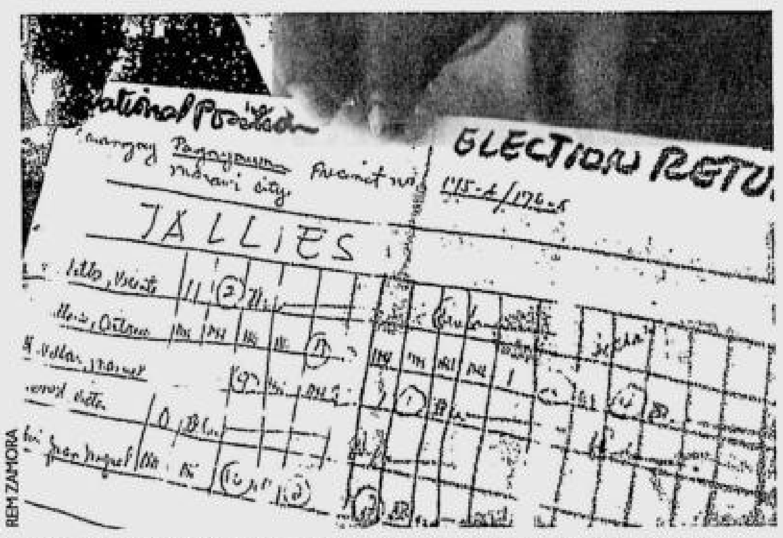
He said they were later transferred from the banana patch to a wooded area, and completed their task at 3 p.m.

He added: "We were transferred to the back [of a municipal hall]. We waited for nightfall and when it was already dark, we were taken to the National Irrigation Administration office in Shariff Aguak.

"On May 15, 2007, we were on standby the whole day."

On May 16, he said, the counting began at 7 p.m. and ended at 11 p.m.

In his own sworn statement also signed on May 24, Kalantungan, 34, a poll clerk and BEI member of Pagalungan town, said some 38 ballot boxes and 190 ERs remained unclaimed by the Comelec from the Sangguniang Bayan 10 days after the elections.



REM ZAMORA

HANDWRITTEN election return received from the BEI after the election is allegedly from Barangay Pagayawan, Marawi City and signed by a certain chair Parame Macud.

He also said he was already finding it hard watching over the election documents covering the results of the balloting in his municipality.

"Until now, May 24, 2007, the authorized Comelec officer has yet to receive the [ERs]. These have been unclaimed since May 15, 2007," Kalantungan said.

"Now that it has been almost 10 days that they have yet to get the ERs, I'm already finding what's happening difficult," he said.

The provincial canvass apparently went on despite the absence of the 38 ballot boxes and 190 ERs from Pagalungan.

"It would seem that the ERs they counted at the provincial canvass were manufactured ERs," observed Rep. Teodoro Casiño of the party-list group Bayan Muna. "Now, the operators are finding it difficult to remove the valid ERs from Pagalungan town because the BEIs like Faisal are standing guard over them."

Irregular

Casiño said the task force would use the affidavits to ask the Comelec "to void the elections in Maguindanao and to file administrative and criminal charges against election officials."

Suara Bangsamoro, a party-list group allied with Bayan Muna, conducted the fact-finding mission in Maguindanao.

Zaynab Ampatuan, head of the fact-finding team and Suara Bangsamoro first nominee, told the INQUIRER that they conducted the interviews on Thursday but spent a week looking for people willing to submit sworn statements.

Ampatuan said the 190 uncanvassed ERs contained all the votes in eight of 12 barangays in Pagalungan.

Rep. Satur Ocampo, also of Bayan Muna, said it was "highly irregular that the Provincial Board of Canvassers had already finished canvassing 'votes' in Maguindanao while the ERs remain in the custody of poll officers at the municipal level."

"This is a clear case of election sabotage, a criminal and election offense," he said in a statement.

According to Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, "it is now clear to the people what kind of command votes and election machinery Malacañang had been bragging about, the ones that delivered a 12-0 sweep by [TU] in Maguindanao."

"It is an armed election machinery engaged in commando-type operations to sabotage the polls," Mariano said, referring to the armed men who supposedly took the BEIs and stood guard over them while they filled out ballots.

With a report from TJ Burgonio

Party-list voters surge in Zambo Sur by 219%, Tawi-Tawi by 89%

From page A1

al votes that party-list groups identified with Malacañang supposedly enjoyed because of the spike in voter turnout.

Alif

The task force showed the INQUIRER how it traced alleged "vote-padding" in favor of groups like Ang Laban ng Indiginong Filipino (Alif) in Zamboanga del Sur.

Alif, whose incumbent representative is Acmad Tomawis, enjoyed at least 22,011 additional votes in 15 of 28 municipalities in the province, according to a consolidated report by the task force.

The alleged increase was biggest at 2,000 in the town of Margosatubig and also at Pitogo. In the certificate of votes (CoV), Alif got only 114 in Margosatubig, but the result was jacked up to 2,114 in the summary of votes (SoV), the report said.

In Pitogo, Alif supposedly registered only 108 votes in the CoV, but had 2,108 in the SoV.

A closer look at the task force's report showed that numerals were simply added to the CoV count to pad the votes in the SoV. Alif's nine votes in Simimot, for instance, rose to 1,090 in the SoV. In Josefina town, its four votes went up to 641.

Yacap

The task force said the questionable high voter turnout in Tawi-Tawi also appeared to favor another party-list group believed to be fronting for Malacañang.

The Youth Against Corruption and Poverty (Yacap) was tops in the province with 21,966 votes, beating rival party-list groups based in Mindanao.

"It's like Chavit Singson being the top vote-getter in Maguindanao," Casiño said, referring to the administration senatorial candidate whose political bailiwick is Ilocos Sur.

Casiño said the results of the party-list elections in Zamboanga del Sur and Tawi-Tawi reminded him of a meeting with a known "political operator" about three weeks before the May 14 elections.

He said that during the meeting at a five-star hotel in Makati, the operator told him that Mindanao would be "the primary source of votes for party-list groups."

ROGER MARGALLO

PARTY-LIST Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo with 3rd party nominee Neri Colmenares show affidavits executed by two Board of Election Inspectors stating what happened on Election Day in two Maguindanao towns.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that the operator—a former critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo—was involved in the sale of party-list nominations. He was supposedly working with another political operator, a namesake of a former House Speaker identified with Malacañang's Office of External Affairs.

Casiño said the second operator was also present during the Makati hotel meeting. He recalled seeing the man speaking with a party-list representative then seeking accreditation from the Commission on Elections.

"The massive vote-padding currently happening in Mindanao confirms the statement of the political operator," the lawmaker said.

Casiño said the two men he met in Makati were among many "syndicates" manipulating the results of the party-list elections for money. He said these groups included known warlords and powerful political clans in Mindanao.

Syndicates

Before the elections, he said, syndicates were offering to fix the results with a rate of P5 for every voter that a party-list group wanted added to its votes. He said the rate went as high as P25 per voter after the elections.

"Political operators who are neat with their 'work' change the results, not only in the CoV and SOV, but also in the election returns," Casiño said.

He described as "crude" and "blatant" the alleged "vote-padding" in Zamboanga del Sur and Taw-Tawi, noting that political operators bothered to change only the figures in the CoV and SoV.

Casiño said the task force would question the results from the two provinces once these reach the National Board of Canvassers at the Philippine International Convention Center.

PARTY-LIST VOTES

Comelec as of 6 p.m., May 25

Rank	Party-list	Votes
1	BUHAY	864,902
2	BAYAN MUNA	715,587
3	CIBAC	515,288
4	APEC	426,308
5	GABRIELA	413,857
6	A TEACHER	364,821
7	ALAGAD	342,835
8	ABONO	325,223
9	BUTIL	324,746
10	AKBAYAN	304,674
11	AGAP	281,556
12	BATAS	275,106
13	ANAKPAWIS	271,195
14	ARC	266,911
15	COOP-NATCCO	264,639
16	AN WARAY	247,300
17	FPJPM	197,163
18	ABA-AKO	172,756
19	KABATAAN	164,034
20	SENIOR CITIZENS	159,155
21	KAKUSA	155,222
22	ABS	149,836
23	UNI-MAD	148,915
24	VFP	142,259
25	BANAT	136,702
26	BANTAY	132,350
27	ABAKADA	126,555
28	1-UTAK	119,633
29	AGHAM	113,306
30	COCOFED	112,553

What's Palparan doing in Lanao?

By Norman Bordadora

"WHAT THE HELL IS PALPARAN DOING IN Lanao?" said Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño yesterday as he denounced the Commission on Elections for deputizing the Armed Forces in tomorrow's special elections in 13 towns in Lanao del Sur.

Casiño referred to retired General Jovito Palparan, whose name has been linked to human rights violations, to stress their distrust over the heavy military presence in areas where rampant electoral fraud is suspected.

"The Armed Forces is heavily biased against the political opposition and progressive partylists. They cannot be trusted to ensure clean and credible elections in Lanao del Sur or anywhere else," said House Deputy Minority Leader and Bayan Muna president, Rep. Satur C. Ocampo, who was interviewed by the INQUIRER together with Casiño and other militant leaders at their party-list headquarters in Quezon City.

Casiño and Ocampo argued that the military had "zero credibility" as election guardians and should not be used in the Mindanao special polls.

Magic formula

"The Comelec should seriously reconsider its decision and instead deputize the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and other such groups, added Bayan Muna's general counsel and third nominee Neri Javier Colmenares.

"This is the administration's magic formula for negating the protest vote—to massively cheat in Lanao del Sur, to terrorize residents there into voting 12-0 for Team Unity and to vote for Bantay," Colmenares charged.

Bayan Muna leaders said the Armed Forces was far from being a neutral guardian of elections.

"Lest we forget, the AFP has vigorously spoken against the candidacy of (Genuine Opposition candidate) Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes and has actively campaigned against our party-list organizations," Ocampo said.

Numerous acts of fraud and harassment have been committed by soldiers in the May 14 polls, he pointed out.

Palparan, meanwhile, is the nominee of the party-list group Bantay, which is lagging behind despite massive military support," said Ocampo.

Ocampo said that in the 2004 elections, the military played "a similar lead role as facilitator of massive cheating" as indicated in the "Hello Garci" (recordings of alleged conversations detailing alleged election fraud) and the testimony of retired general Francisco Gudani.

US Senate bill aims to reunite RP vets with kin

HONOLULU— THE US SENATE ON Thursday voted to change an immigration bill to allow the children of Filipino World War II veterans to join their parents in the United States.

The US enlisted 200,000 Filipino youths into its military in the 1940s, promising they would get the same benefits and treatment as Americans.

But Washington failed to follow through on its commitment, waiting until recent years to award pension benefits and immigration rights to the former troops, who are now in their 80s and 90s.

The children of the veterans, meanwhile, were not allowed to join their parents in the United States. Instead, they have been forced to languish on immigration waiting lists, dividing many families.

"I am extremely pleased that my colleagues in the Senate saw fit to join me in honoring these brave Filipino veterans who fought alongside American troops to achieve victory in World War II," the bill's sponsor, Senator Daniel Akaka, said in a statement. "It would be a great final honor for these heroes to be joined and cared for by their adult children as they move through their golden years."

Art Caleda, president of the Hawaii chapter of World War II Filipino-American Veterans, said he was excited by the amendment.

"All of our efforts will not go in vain if things go right," Caleda said.

A similar measure failed last year when it was included in a large immigration bill that was derailed by disagreements over a border fence and making English the national language.

Debate on this year's broader immigration bill is expected to continue into next month. *AP*

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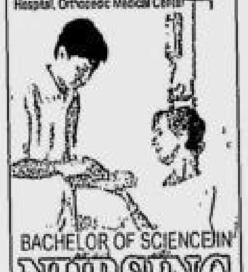

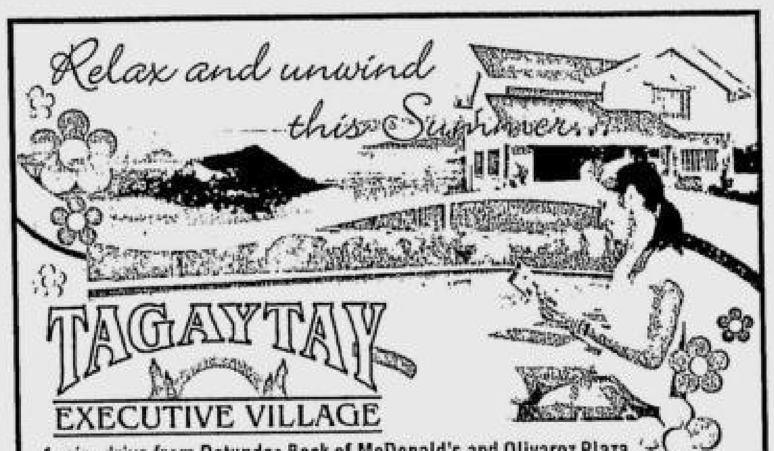

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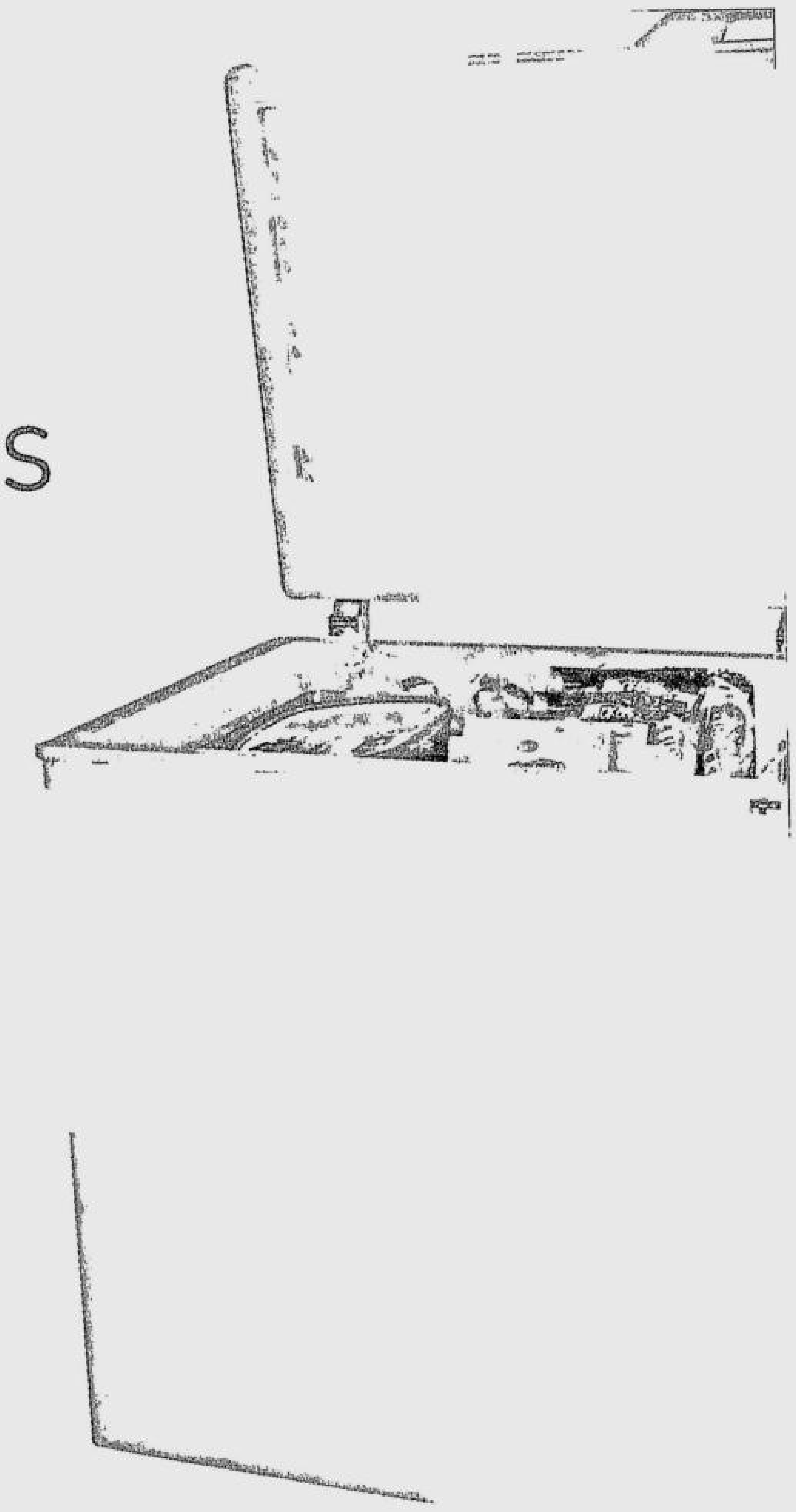

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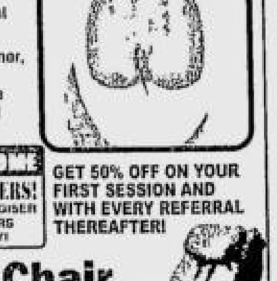

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Why the Senate matters

EDITORIAL

BECAUSE IT IS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO MALAcañang. In the last several days, when the scale of the Arroyo administration's defeat in the senatorial elections became evident, and not even the most optimistic conditioning strategies of Team Unity spokesmen could negate the evidence, the ghost of Charter change past rematerialized.

The apparition had an old refrain on its lips, made familiar from overuse in last year's battles over constitutional reform. The Senate is useless, the song went. Why bother with it at all?

Perhaps columnist Alex Magno, a professor at the University of the Philippines and a government-appointed development banker, picked up the tune best. The other day, he wrote: "Even if the opposition wins a slight edge in the Senate race, that is ultimately meaningless."

In his view, every senator becomes a "free agent" upon proclamation; the lack of party identification and discipline he had on other occasions excoriated is even more pronounced among senators, he said. "They are too imperious to be subject to party discipline, too ambitious to yield to a higher goal."

This must come as news to even the administration's own candidates, because—judging from the events of the last two years alone—the Senate **as an institution** effectively stood in the way of the administration's more controversial policies. The administration's own Joker Arroyo argued **for** the Senate in crucial Supreme Court cases.

In truth, the frequently fractious Senate pulled itself together long enough, and often enough, to confront Malacañang over patently anti-democratic policies. While some senators objected or were not heard from, the Senate's opposition to these policies was institutional in character.

Magno credits the "two-party tendency" of senatorial elections—as contrasted with the nature of the "consistently multi-candidate presidential race"—with creating senators who see themselves as above the occupant in mere Malacañang. This, he wrote, is why "the Senate often tends to become a dysfunctional unit in the arrangement of governance."

He is too generous to the framers of the Constitution. Even before martial rule (in other words, back when presidential elections had an intensely two-party cast) the Senate was already and frequently described as a chamber of independent republics.

But is it, in fact, dysfunctional? The case of the fertilizer scam, the alleged electioneering scheme which reportedly benefited President Macapagal-Arroyo when she ran in 2004, belies Magno's claim. The reason former agriculture undersecretary Joc-Joc Bolante is in detention in the United States is precisely because of the Senate's dogged pursuit of the truth behind the scam.

At this point, advocates of the parliamentary system will begin a numbers game, contrasting the flood of legislation from the House with the trickle from the Senate. But history should have the last say: We wager that, years from now, the Arroyo administration's assault on our civil liberties, its narrowing of the democratic space, in exchange for continuing political survival, will be recognized as the main narrative defining Philippine politics at the beginning of the 21st century. In that narrative, it will be the Senate, not the House, which will be acclaimed as choosing history's side.

In the end, Magno's argument against the Senate rests on the conviction that, well, independence of mind is not a becoming quality of a legislator. "The rest of government is forced to deal with each senator as an autonomous power in an unstructured universe," he wrote.

This, again, must come as news, this time to the likes of Bong Revilla and Lito Lapid. If these non-performing administration senators had only known that they could in fact act as autonomous powers, holding poor Malacañang and a hard-pressed House hostage, just imagine what they could have done. Oh, the horror! Or at least, the horror vacui.

The truth is: The Senate matters, precisely because it plays a key role in our democracy. (And in the Arroyo era, that role is to counter Malacañang's increasingly assertive conception of executive power.) Judging from the results of the 2007 vote, the people of the Philippines share the same view.

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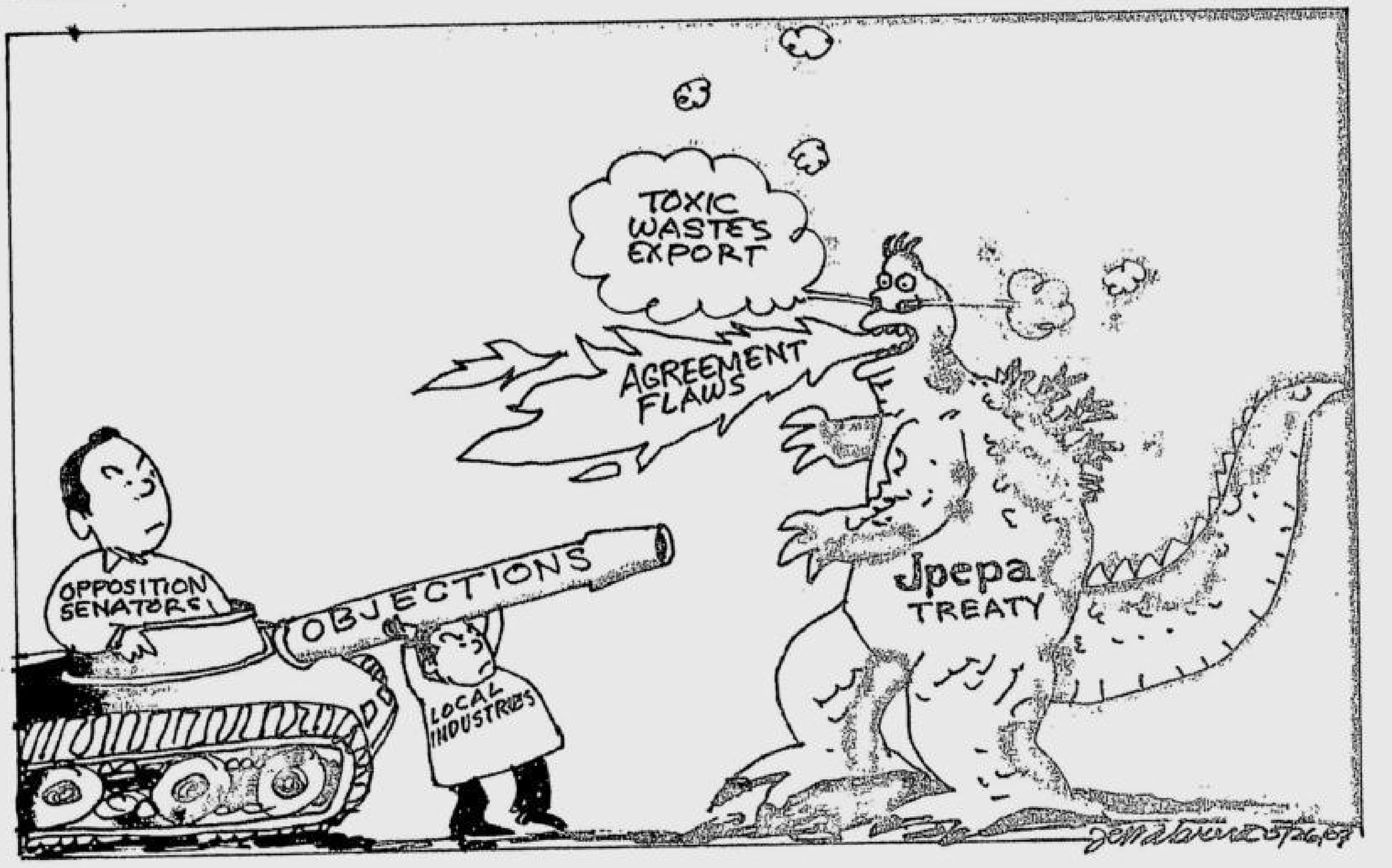


A light at the end of the tunnel

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITH THE MAY 14 ELECTIONS MOSTLY completed subject to the usual valid complaints of poll irregularities, let me now offer the glimmer of a hope that our moribund democracy, although it has suffered another mortal blow this year, is not yet dead.

The results of the senatorial elections so far, unless they are disturbed by some miracle in Mindanao, indicate that there is a nationwide sentiment against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her Team Unity candidates. Even Joker Arroyo and Edgardo Angara are not rabid supporters of GMA, and the victorious Genuine Opposition and independent candidates are all definitely hostile to her. Many believe that the election of only two from her senatorial ticket, for all its many political advantages, is a clear indication of the electorate's rejection of the President and her administration.

Ms Gloria's apologists disagree, arguing that the elections on the lower levels, from the House of Representatives to the local offices, have mostly been won by her supporters as proof of her still tremendous popularity. It is true that the lower House will again be dominated by Jose de Venecia and his pork barrel allies and the majority of the elected provincial governors and city mayors have grateful allegiance to an over-generous Malacañang. This is why Ermita and Bunye, the official barkers of the GMA Cabinet, are unconvincingly celebrating their empty victory with their ragged mercenaries.

Their jubilation has a hollow ring because they know they are speaking without conviction, unless the word means being guilty. That guilt is spread all over the land like ugly graffiti. Their peals of victory are as vacuous as the claims of the Comelec that the elections were honest and of the military and police authorities that there was less election violence now than in previous years. These are monstrous prevarications in the face of the widespread irrefutable facts to the contrary.

The desecration of suffrage in 2007 is another indelible stain on the record of the electoral body. Nevertheless, it is gratifying that despite its ugly effects upon our democratic system, there were heroic efforts to save it from utter demolition. The evil juggernaut threatening our way of life was checked in small pockets of resistance where citizens boldly brandished their defiance to the onslaughts of the new tyranny.

In the senatorial race, the Genuine Opposition won over the Team Unity with all its official privileges and persuasions, legal and otherwise. Many political dynasties aligned with the administration were abandoned by their long-controlled but finally assertive constituents. Manny Pacquiao, GMA's millionaire pugilist, and Virgilio Garcillano of the malodorous Hello Garci scandal were both justly humiliated in their presumptuous bid for public office. Unbelievably extravagant vote-buying by the billions of pesos—not mere millions—was reported in Pangasinan, Bataan and other negotiable precincts. And there was that courageous teacher in Maguindanao who exposed how she and her colleagues—and students, too—were forced to fill up ballots for the Team Unity candidates.

Deservedly, Sen. Alfredo Lim won by a landslide over the son of incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila, and Sen. Lito Lapid, also an administration candidate, lost by a big margin, to incumbent Mayor Jejomar Binay of Makati. In Pampanga, Fr. Eddie Panlilio, a novice politician, bested the so-called Jueteng Queen and the reputed Quarry King, both powerful figures in the province, as its new governor. In Pasay City, suspended Mayor Peewee Trinidad won re-election against Rep. Consuelo Dy of Kampi (kay Gloria) and her ubiquitous posters.

In Isabela, Gov. Grace Padaca is still challenging the Dy family dynasty that has controlled the province for decades. Similar battles are also raging in Naga City, Laguna, Surigao del Norte, Cebu City, Masbate, Cotabato City, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and other places where qualms of conscience are inspiring acts of contrition among many political rascals. A new political awakening is taking place in many once-submissive fiefdoms to sanitize and fortify the right of suffrage as the sharpest weapon against the evils of misgovernment.

These valiant adventures for the protection of the ballot may be the straw that will break the back of the powerful political villainy that is poisoning the lifeblood of the nation. A courageous and responsible citizenry may yet make our long-abused country, far from a dying democracy, a vibrant and truly free republic.

The tunnel may be dark and long but the light at the end could burn bright. All it takes is for conscientious Filipinos to take the tedious trek to liberty despite the perils along the way.

A cycle of dependence

COMMENTARY

Charito Chiuco-Tordecilla
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

MY NANAY HAS DIABETES, A GENETIC DISease that needs a lifetime medication to sustain her health, to live longer. We, her children, help out for her maintenance medicines. Now that our Lolo stays with her, she, in turn, attends to his needs and contacts her sisters from time to time to keep their father in good shape.

My husband and his sisters, too, have to pool resources to buy medicines for their father who has problems with his pancreas; and also for their mother who gets ill once in a while. I, on my part, have to shoulder my mother's yearly health insurance to cover her regular visits to her diabetologist and ophthalmologist. And we have a family of our own to take care as well.

Which made me ponder: when I grow old, will it be the same cycle of depending on my children so I can live longer in my old age? Honestly, I feel a bit uneasy thinking about it. But I sense the urge to plan for it while I am still healthy and able to work. If I have the means, I want to save for my old age to ease the load on my children when they raise their own families someday.

Indeed, it is a cycle of helping out. We Filipinos tend to our elders in times of sickness or need. And when we become old, we expect our children and grandchildren to take care of us in turn. That is what is good in having a caring family. But, of course, despite good intentions, not all will always be able to help out.

Admittedly, we have some form of social security insurance such as PhilHealth (only when we get hospitalized) and SSS or GSIS health and retirement benefits for those who are and have been formally employed. Some of those who work in the private sector have health insurance plans that mainly cover consultation and hospitalization. Senior citizens, on the other hand, can get discounts on their purchases.

> When I grow old, will it be the same cycle of depending on my children so I can live longer in my old age?

But for those who have neither formal employment nor access to private health insurance plans, they have no recourse but rely on other family members who can afford to bring them to the doctor and buy medicines.

Indeed, the medicines prescribed by the doctor for our elders cost a lot. I once asked around about low-priced or generic medicines that my mother needs to take for a sustained period—particularly for controlling blood sugar and cholesterol, and for her glaucoma.

Advised by a chemist, I was told that we might need to consult first with our doctors about the equivalent generic drugs that we plan to buy. While these drugs may be cheaper, they might have an allergy-causing substance which is normally taken out in equivalent, high-priced medicines.

I am not a scientist by profession but what I gather here is that those of us who wish to save on our medicine expenses, in any way we can, cannot just buy the generic counterpart without the "blessing" of doctors. This assumes, of course, that the doctors themselves are knowledgeable about the content, effects and side effects of branded and generic drugs. But the needy will say that generic drugs are better than nothing especially if these can cure their illness.

I heard of people's organizations that have established their own version of mini pharmacies or *botika*—responding to the poor's dire need for cheap medicines, without waiting for the government's subsidy. They complement the 8,000 or so "botika sa bayan" and "botika sa barangay" that have been set up by government and private groups.

One wonders how wide the reach of these outlets are for I have yet to see one. The Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), the government's arm in purchasing and selling cheap medicines, says its job is to raise public awareness on these outlets and their products. Obviously, it needs to work harder.

I learned of the Affordable Medicine Bill that awaits "final judgment" when the 13th Congress reconvenes in June. It has a provision on "parallel importation," that is, it would allow the importation of drugs sold at a much cheaper price in other countries. A hypertensive drug, for instance, can be purchased in countries such as India and Pakistan by as much as nine times cheaper.

Expect a tough and long process before Congress reaches an enlightened decision, if it can arrive at a final one, at all. As groups advocating for the passage of the bill say, it will be a battle between the interest of big pharmaceuticals in the country and the interest of the nation.

Meantime, as I scout for low-priced medicines for my mother, I cannot just tell her to wait until Congress decides to vote for the health of ordinary Filipinos.

Race for bottom candidates getting tighter

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A FEW DAYS AGO, REELECTIONIST SEN. PANFILO Lacson, looking over the election results trickling in, said that to feel comfortable about winning a Senate seat, a candidate must have about 11 million votes. As of 6:30 p.m. of May 24, Loren Legarda, Francis Escudero, Lacson and Manuel Villar, all of the Genuine Opposition, had passed that mark. What's interesting to note, however, is that Benigno Aquino III, No. 6 in the Comelec count, is about 400,000 votes ahead of Edgardo Angara, No. 7, while the latter is about 500,000 votes ahead of the 8th placer, Alan Peter Cayetano. On the other hand, the difference between Angara and Aquilino Pimental III, No. 12, is also only about 500,000 votes; whereas there are only about a 400,000-vote spread from Cayetano, No. 8, to Antonio Trillanes, No. 11. But Pimentel, No. 12, is separated from Prospero Pichay, No. 16, by only about 900,000 votes. In between them are TU candidates Juan Miguel Zubiri, Ralph Recto and Michael Defensor at 13th, 14th and 15th place, respectively.

Overall, the candidates in the 11th to 16th places are separated by "hairlines," so to speak. Recall that the final margin between Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and the late Robert Barbers was a little over 60,000 votes.

* * *

All these data are significant in view of the fact that there are about 45 million registered voters. If, as the Comelec pointed out, last Monday's turnout was 60 percent, then there should have been 27 million who cast their votes. While the top six senatorial bets are considered shoo-ins, it's too early for celebration or mourning for those in the 7th to the 16th slots; several million more votes have to be tabulated even by Namfrel's quick count.

These data also underscore the crucial significance of the special elections (involving nearly 100,000 votes) in 13 towns of Lanao del Sur today. (Basilan and Sulu still have to be scheduled by the Comelec.) One can imagine how the political operators of both sides have been moving actively in Lanao this past week. It also explains why the 12-0 election result in favor of Team Unity in Maguindanao is being fiercely fought. There are some 360,000 votes in that province which, if the result is upheld, could push Zubiri and Recto into the magic column.

* * *

The Maguindanao canvassing was put on hold by Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, who's in charge of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. But as Compostela Valley Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora put it, one week after the report of the 12-0 vote in Maguindanao for TU broke out, no one has come forward to file charges of vote manipulation or offer proof other than the statement of an unnamed teacher. Zamora lamented that the Maguindanao case is being aired in the media instead of at the proper forum, and he called on the teacher to come out in the open and testify.

I agree with Zamora: the Maguindanao case should be heard and settled by the Comelec, so as not to hold up the proclamation of the rightful senatorial winners; the more it's delayed, the bigger the chances of fraud being committed. The alleged fraud could just be an isolated case in a province where the opposition didn't put up candidates and never showed up to campaign.

* * *

As the canvassing enters its final stage, it has become evident that the opposition will continue to dominate the Senate. It is said that the senatorial race is a referendum on the Arroyo administration and should serve as a "wake-up" call for the President. I have several reactions to this assertion. It's obvious that GMA is unpopular in the urbanized areas, beginning with Metro Manila, which voted 11-0 in favor of the opposition. With the help of a highly oppositionist media, the failings of the administration were highlighted, making her very unpopular while the tremendous economic gains (under her administration), touted even in Japan during her recent visit, have been snowed under.

But some analysts do not see the senatorial elections as a referendum. As proof, they point to the stunning election results in favor of the administration coalition at the local level: pro-Arroyo governors took 73 out of 81 gubernatorial posts nationwide; 203 out of 219 GMA House allies, and 109 pro-GMA city mayors out of 119 nationwide, have already been proclaimed. Even Liberal Party president Franklin Drilon has acknowledged that the best the opposition can win in the House is 30 to 40 seats.

* * *

Indeed, at first blush, it's difficult to relate the two sets of statistics. How come GO swept the senatorial race while TU swept the local ones? The answer may be that the senatorial and local elections operate on different planes. At the senatorial level, the candidates are seen as either against the President or allied with her; at the local level, they are judged on a personal plane—e.g., how they relate with the people. Thus, a big chunk of the voters vent their frustration and anger at the administration in the senatorial race, where four TU candidates are finding it tough to squeeze in. The people obviously want the Senate to remain independent and even oppositionist. But at the local level, administration candidates won because voters liked the goodies public officials brought home and will continue to get, ironically, from the President. Very utilitarian.

A wake-up call for GMA? There's nothing to wake up from. It's going to be the same setup: an oppositionist Senate; and a House, as well as the rest of the country, securely in the hands of GMA's allies. It's foreseeable that with several presidential hopefuls in the Senate, it'll block anything that would make GMA's administration look good. If GMA gets exasperated, she can always, as in the past, seek solace and consolation from the locals.

Sequels and real-life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS IS THE SUMMER OF HOLLYWOOD SEquels, but the bad news is that the film franchises seem to be running out of steam. Or else, in their effort to up the ante, they load the subsequent movies with so much material such that they lose the original charm and energy of the originals.

"Spiderman 3," for instance, is so taken up with Peter Parker's guilt and remorse and thirst for vengeance that the movie plays like a psychological thriller rather than a thrill ride with special effects and an effervescent, teenage hero. I also find disturbing the detour into an exploration of Parker's "darker" side, which turns out to be more of a tour through his dorkier persona. I mean, come on, strolling through Manhattan's streets to the soundtrack of "Saturday Night Fever"? How hackneyed could this movie get?

And believe it or not, "Shrek 3" endows its lovable green ogre with impending middle-age angst, as he grapples with parenthood issues upon hearing news of his fatherhood. There's also an attempt at fantasy plotting with a story on the search for an "alternative" heir for the throne of Far Far Away, as well as a nod to contemporary social issues with a "girl power" segment that shows fairy tale princesses discovering their inner martial artists. But the movie seems as tired as Shrek must be by now. Just to show how tedious was this third-in-a-series movie, halfway through it, people began asking aloud: "How much longer?"

A reviewer wrote of "Shrek 3" that it had reached a point when "a film franchise becomes a parody of itself." I'm afraid I agree with this assessment. No matter how amusing it may be at times—and the duo of Donkey and Puss in Boots, as voiced by Eddie Murphy and Antonio Banderas, are still clever and funny—for the most part it's just a collection of recycled gags. Time to retire the ageing ogre!

* * *

WE held out greater hope for what promises to be a durable franchise: "Pirates of the Caribbean," the movie based—talk about flimsy!—on a theme park ride.

There's still a lot of energy and verve in Gore Verbinski's cinematic treatment of this tale of bloodthirsty pirates, desperate lovers and greedy colonial powers. But there's much too much focus on the otherworldly adventures of Captain Jack Sparrow. I mean, I do love Johnny Depp in this role, but multiple Jack Sparrows in key scenes that drag on and on is a little much!

Something I do like about the movie is its expanding the world of piracy beyond Eurocentrism. Chow Yun-fat makes the most of his cameo as a Singaporean pirate, and there's an entertaining peek into the diverse composition of the "Brethren Court," with a guest appearance by Keith Richards, on whom Depp said he had modeled Jack Sparrow, with apparently little need of prosthetic makeup for a wonderfully dissolute look.

What I most regret about our "Pirates" experience, though, buying tickets early in the morning for a late-evening screening on the first day, was that we left before the credits were over. Now my daughter says that there was a sneak peek at the next sequel, set 10 years later. For this we have vowed to watch the movie again, since there's so much in the hyperactive proceedings that we need a second viewing just to make sense of them.

* * *

FALLING right in the center of this season of sequels is a "one-off" movie that is not about some fanciful hero or fantasy tale, but a real-life criminal and the real-life detective work that went into putting an end to the killings and discovering the killer.

"Zodiac" delves into a series of killings that begins with the shooting of two pairs of teenagers in 1969 and continues on to the decades-long investigation into the identity of the serial killer. This is about as far from a fantasy movie—which some suspense and mystery thrillers tend to be—as one can get.

Real-life detectives and forensic experts complain that the trouble with most detective movies and TV series like "CSI" is that they make police work seem so easy. In truth, they say, much of the work that goes into unmasking criminals and deterring their rampages is tedious and painstaking, and the results often aren't as conclusive and neat as Hollywood makes it to be.

Well, here's where "Zodiac" differs from the run-of-the-mill cop flick. While I hate spoilers, suffice it to say that the movie does not end "satisfactorily," that is, all tied up in a neat package with a beautiful bow. Indeed, as it takes the many twists and turns through the years of investigative work carried out by different individuals, "Zodiac" can sometimes turn interminable and yawn-inducing. But stick with it, because "Zodiac" is about more than just detective work.

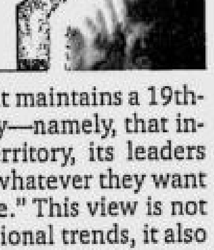
* * *

INDEED, "Zodiac" the movie is not so much about the serial killer who baptized himself Zodiac, as about how obsession with the "story" and its irresolution takes over the lives of everyone who chooses to step into it: a reporter who covers the killings, a pair of detectives who must chase down every clue and tidbit, and a cartoonist who is drawn into the case by the ciphers the killer mails to taunt the police, and ends up writing a book about the search for "Zodiac."

Jake Gyllenhaal, as the cartoonist, embodies the Eagle Scout earnestness that draws him and holds him in Zodiac's thrall. Mark Ruffalo, as the detective tired of stumbling into constant dead-ends, lets his frustration and anger seep through. But really, the movie belongs to Robert Downey Jr., as the cocky reporter who at first loves to taunt the San Francisco police force with their failure to capture Zodiac, but in the end finds his own obsessions devouring his time, his work, his relations with bosses and friends, and his life.

China, the Olympics and global leadership

WORLD VIEW



Orville Schell

THE WHOLE WORLD, IT SEEMS, VIEWS CHINA as the next great global power. A trip to Beijing does little to dispel that impression. Out of the welter of dust, noise, welders' sparks, flotillas of cement mixers and construction cranes, the setting for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games is taking shape. A visitor feels inconsequential in the chaotic vastness of this epic undertaking.

But looking down on the scene from the half-finished Morgan Centre, the luxury apartment complex (where annual rents are $800,000) and seven-star hotel that is arising beside the Olympic site, one is awestruck not only by the project's grandeur, but also by its daring design. Below, like some latticed popover, is the Herzog & de Meuron-designed "birds nest" Olympic Stadium. Beside it is the stunning "water cube," or Aquatics Center, of Chinese/Australian design.

It is hardly surprising that after the Games, the Chinese Communist Party's leaders plan to vacate their retro pavilions in Zhongnanhai, the cloistered compound beside the Forbidden City, to move to a new "campus" adjacent to the Olympic Green, China's new power center. China's leaders view the Olympics not only as a national celebration, but also as the greatest national coming-out party in history.

Feeling the Promethian energy unleashed in Beijing, it is easy to believe in China's aspirations to restore itself to a position of global wealth and power. Indeed, over the past half-century, when the Chinese put their minds to something—whether in embracing Mao's revolution or in the equally unfettered way they are pursuing the economic counter-revolution unleashed by Deng Xiaoping—they have always demonstrated extraordinary fortitude and resolution.

But, to become a truly "great nation," China must make two great leaps. First, it must become more comfortable playing an active and constructive international role. China is now deeply involved in the world, especially the Third World, because of trade. But it maintains a 19th-century notion of sovereignty—namely, that inside a country's national territory, its leaders have an absolute right to do whatever they want without outside "interference." This view is not only out of step with international trends, it also inhibits China from playing a useful role in world crises.

China's leaders fear that if they begin to pronounce on the domestic record of other nations, much less join in sanctions or United Nations peacekeeping missions, they will help establish a precedent that would allow others to intrude on domestic Chinese affairs. But the Chinese government has just had a wake-up call in Sudan, from which China imports 50 percent of its oil. After doing little to pressure Sudanese strongman Omar al-Bashir into admitting UN peacekeepers to stem the killing in Darfur, China suddenly found the promise of an unsullied Olympics at risk.

Actress Mia Farrow, for example, suggested that the 2008 Olympics might be remembered as "the genocide games." This got the Chinese leadership's attention. In a matter of days, an emissary was dispatched and al-Bashir relented. It was an important moment in China's evolution from a defensive to an offensive player on the international scene.

China's second challenge concerns its hybrid capitalist/Leninist system of governance, which may not function well enough without democratic feedback and the rule of law. Party leaders may not become sufficiently attuned to the needs of China's people to respond to problems like corruption, environmental degradation, or peasant unrest before crises make them unsolvable.

Although hardly democrats, President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao already are expending large of amounts of time and resources on divisive social problems in the countryside, where Mao's revolution started, but where income growth has lagged. Hu and Wen have cancelled national agricultural taxes, made rural schooling free, launched a new rural medical insurance plan, and guaranteed that, since there is still no title for holding private agricultural land, peasants are entitled to renew their long-term leases.

So China may be edging toward a whole new way of interacting with the world and dealing with its people; its curious authoritarian capitalism may be inching toward some new, and possibly viable, model for long-term development. But, as Mao always noted, theory should not be confused with practice, and the sustainability of such a model remains untested. Indeed, no state run by a Communist Party has yet managed to reform itself sufficiently to modernize and develop successfully. In this, China is both a pioneer and a developmental curiosity.

What kind of nation China aspires to be, and where it is ultimately headed, is still something of a conundrum. Right now, China's focus is not on grand political visions for the future, but on grand visions for a Beijing reborn to impress the world. Beneath the surface are many threatening cracks. But to drive past the Olympic Green in Beijing will help make many Chinese believe that, perhaps, the center will hold in this unprecedented and unusual experiment of nation-building.

Project Syndicate

Orville Schell is a renowned expert in China and dean of the School of Journalism at the University of California-Berkeley.

The traveler

YOUNG BLOOD

Jenny Santi

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I DISCOVERED THE JOY OF TRAVELING ALONE IN THE summer when I turned 15. Mama had me accompany her on a business trip to Auckland, which meant that she would be at work 9 to 5. She would have breakfast with me at the hotel and leave me to go about my day, armed with pocket money, a map of the town—no rules, meeting points, or restrictions.

Auckland is beautiful. One of my most distinct memories of this city was how it smelled. It reminded me of the scent that escapes from a newly opened balikbayan box—that fresh, enlivening smell of an assortment of everything imported and new—new shoes, new clothes, new towels, new bed sheets and soap. Auckland is an entire city perfumed with that scent of foreign prosperity.

It was in this city, which is on a narrow strip of land flanked by two harbors, where I discovered a new sense of freedom. There, nothing held me back from wearing an outfit that would have attracted too many stares in Manila: a navy blue hat, a navy blue vest, a navy blue balloon skirt, opaque navy blue tights and knee-high boots. Shrouded in blue, I would have lunch by myself, free of all self-consciousness. Knowing that I had all day to myself, I would buy some bread, run out to the square and feed the pigeons. And then I would follow them to the waterfront and watch them fly high over the sea of white yachts on Waitemata Harbor, then over the vast blue sea and finally up in the clouds as far as I could see. How I wished Mama saw the beauty of that day. But I had nothing to show her—no pictures taken by strangers, no souvenirs.

It has been 10 years since I visited New Zealand, and I have since traveled to many other foreign lands by myself. People ask me what joy I find in traveling solo. I tell them that when you travel with someone, you get to know that someone better; but when you travel alone, you get to know yourself better. I have parked my beat-up suitcase in 26 countries (excluding stopovers), which means that if my truism holds up, then I must have gotten to know my 26-year-old self so well. No souvenir figurines gather dust on my shelves. I do not have a collection of 26 world flags, 26 silver spoons, or 26 fridge magnets on which 26 names of countries are etched. All I have is a huge world map proudly displayed on my bathroom wall. On this map, which I have tacked on to a corkboard, I have marked every place I have ever been to.

My world map is at once a powerful reminder of my past peregrinations and a source of motivation to keep exploring the rest of the world. The blue tack on France is an aide mémoire of my time there as a student, carrying a French-English dictionary wherever I went, and years later experiencing my first genuine French kiss. The red tack on England is enough to remind me of the two years I spent in London, where I had my first corporate job, rented my first flat and met the person who I thought was the love of my life. The green tack on Thailand is a memento of the time that the Air France crew allowed me to sit in the cockpit of a Boeing 747-8 for the full duration of the flight to Manila! And then there is a tack on Egypt that reminds me that the Sphinx is far smaller than what most everyone thinks; the tack on Sweden reminds me that the best bread in the world is to be found in the supermarkets of Lund; and the biggest tack of all, on the Philippines, reminds me that this is still home.

I find myself back home in Manila now, at a perfect vantage point to assess all that has been. My "jet-set" life has been a decision, not a privilege. Mama hardly imposed restrictions as to how far and how often I could travel, as long as I could bankroll my own trips. Staring at my old suitcase that still waits to be unpacked three weeks after my arrival, I realize that I have paid a high price for this way of life. Aside from the low bank balance, there are plenty of other matters that have been great sources of exasperation.

For example, the suit I must wear tomorrow is still with the dry cleaner's in London; the shoes that match are in my "ex's" parents' garage in the north of England; and the book I am required to read is en route to Singapore. And while I needed adapters to use just about every appliance I owned when I moved abroad, I now need adapters to use just about every appliance I've brought back home! Aside from those, my lifestyle has left me permanently cursed with "long distance relationships"—not only with boyfriends, but also with dogs, cats, parents, siblings, the *barkada* and all those benevolent strangers who would so willingly fix my flat tire on Edsa.

After spending this afternoon stuck in traffic, however, I find myself wishing I were in my kitchen in London engaged in the therapeutic act of shelling broad beans, in the south of France popping raspberries in my mouth, or in the Loire Valley feeding the ducks on a Sunday afternoon.

Then again, I wouldn't have lived my life any other way. No one can put a price on the lessons I have learned. Just to name a few: (1) Anyone who comes home speaking with a foreign accent after less than two years of living abroad is faking it. (2) There are many ways to dodge excess baggage fees. (3) Never wear white trousers on a flight. (4) No matter how many times you've flown, never ignore the safety demonstrations. (5) Wearing a smart suit and being extra nice to airline staff increase your chances of getting an upgrade. (6) It is a very bad idea to run your passport through the fax machine. (7) Contact lenses worn on a flight will pop out. (8) A winter scarf is a necessity, not a fashion accessory. (9) You can actually chew gum in Singapore. (10) Whenever abroad, "Filipino" is a synonym for the word "friend."

I scan the blank spaces on my map and imagine what other possibilities hold out there. Shall I go warrior training in Mongolia, dog sledding in Alaska, or join the Hare Krishna in Peru? Or perhaps follow the wildebeest in Tanzania or climb a Guatemalan volcano? Who knows, maybe it is in the simple act of eating cup noodles in Hong Kong that I will discover the meaning of life. But for now, all I'm sure of is, this life of travel makes me a little more convinced that when I get to be an 80-year-old grandmother on my deathbed, I will be able to say that I have truly lived life to the fullest.

Jenny Santi, 26, is currently in Philadelphia, USA pursuing her joint MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and INSEAD. She dreams of the day when she can finally unpack all the contents of her suitcases into one big walk-in closet.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Land reform doesn't work

THE INQUIRER SERIES ON LAND reform written by Fernando del Mundo (INQUIRER, 5/3-6/07) was nothing but propaganda. The Philippines is the only country in the world still pursuing a land reform agenda; all others have given up on the program simply because it does not work. In this country, land reform has been a total disaster resulting in a drop in agricultural production and billions of losses to government.

The Department of Agrarian Reform wants the government to shoulder P40 billion of overdue loans related to land reform, and this is only the tip of the iceberg; hundreds of billions of pesos have been lost in this foolish experiment.

Corporate farms are now the worldwide trend: they are efficient, they entail lower cost yet produce more per hectare, thus resulting in lower food prices.

It is totally illogical for our country to pursue land reform. Already it has the 12th largest population in the world, but it ranks only No. 72 in terms of land size. Of the 20 countries with the biggest population, the Philippines is the second most densely populated, which means only one or two hectares can be given to a farmer under the land reform program.

This means the small farmer will forever remain poor, and our farmers know this, that is why most of them are deserting the farms and going to urban areas. The huge squatter colonies in Metro Manila and other urban areas are a glaring proof of the failure of the land reform program. Another proof is the aging population of our farmers. The average age of a small farmer is now 57; young people are deserting the farms in droves.

Japan, the mostly densely populated country, decided way back in 1870 to shift from agriculture to industry in order to progress rapidly. Now less than 5 percent of the Japanese are agriculture-based. Japan is now the second richest country in the world.

The Philippines has one of the highest unemployment rates in Asia. The hundreds of billions of pesos spent on land reform are a waste because the program creates few jobs. Our scarce resources should instead be spent on an industry that can create jobs for our millions of unemployed and underemployed. One such industry is tourism which is also the biggest industry in Southeast Asia.

All countries in Southeast Asia know this, and they have concentrated on this industry. The Thais developed Phuket Island, the Malaysian developed Langkawi Island, the Indonesians developed Bali. Singapore is currently spending $5 billion to develop two resort-casinos in order to attract more tourists. All the above countries have reaped hundreds of billions of tourism dollars while creating millions of jobs for their people, thanks to their foresight.

—ROY MIRANDA,
Aurora Towers, Quezon City

He may be good, but Calma is violating architecture law

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE letter titled "Calma deserves recognition." (INQUIRER, 4/27/07) Like other regulatory laws on the practice of professions, Republic Act 9266, which regulates the practice of architecture in the Philippines, is intended to protect life and property and uphold public interest at all times. Eduardo Calma clearly fails to satisfy the premier requisites for architectural practice in the Philippines—registration as an architect and a license to practice.

Under the New Civil Code, registered/licensed architects assume compulsory civil liability for 15 years for each building that they plan and design (plus a 10-year waiting period for a civil suit to be filed, reckoned from instance of design failure). They are also held separately accountable to the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA) for their compliance with RA 9266 and its derivative regulations.

Calma's lack of registration/license to practice architecture in the Philippines means that he hasn't assumed such liabilities and responsibilities. It also means that he hasn't met the standards of architectural practice in the Philippines; this fact may place his "clients" in an awkward position.

The PRBoA is mandated to help enforce state policy insofar as RA 9266 is involved. By whatever title he bestows upon himself, Calma's continued "practice" of architecture is a violation of RA 9266. And just in case they are still wondering, registered/licensed architects and/or other regulated professionals who knowingly or unwittingly aided and abetted Calma's "practice" may also be made to answer for his and their acts.

Media exposure and awards of any sort are never guarantees of competence in architectural practice and are clearly not bases for granting a license. If Calma is as good as he is portrayed in media and in his awards, then he should have no trouble at all in passing the architecture licensure examinations like the next one scheduled for late June 2007.

Lastly, if Calma's supporters feel that he is above the standards set by state policy, then they are most welcome to go to Congress or to the Supreme Court to seek a change of state policy. Failing the above, Calma may need to seriously consider "practising" his brand of architecture elsewhere.

—ARMANDO N. ALLÍ,
chair, Professional Regulatory
Board of Architecture

Dirtiest election ever in Bataan

DOUBTLESS, BAD POLITICS HAVE corrupted the values of the Filipinos, and the last elections provided a glaring proof of this. Vote-buying in various forms—from providing food to BEI (Board of Election Inspectors) members, to transporting voters (to and from the polling places), to distribution of goods to barangay folk, donations here and there, unusual giveaways, and handing out of "envelopes" close to election day—was common-knowledge, even blatant in so many places.

But I believe that the "deterioration of politics" Bishop Socrates Villegas complained about was not just about vote-buying. In the last elections, for the first time, I saw uniformed men effectively being used by those in power to threaten voters and buy votes to ensure that a father and his sons win in Bataan.

I agree with Bishop Villegas that the last election was the dirtiest in the history of Bataan. Gold and guns reigned supreme. The highest bidder won the votes, and the people themselves lost.

While Church leaders have an important role in instilling moral values among the people, I do not agree that they should be blamed for the erosion of moral values in our society. The weak family, the power-hungry leaders and the media, among others, are also to blame.

The last election left me dumbfounded, depressed, disgusted—and feeling hopeless about my country's future.

—TERESITA BARKER,
tessmbarker@yahoo.com

Overpopulation: a 20th-century myth

IF THE MAJORITY BUYS THE radical birth control initiative, does that make it right?

The initiative called for by population control agencies like the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), based on the Pulse Asia survey on family planning, is *argumentum ad populorum*—a bandwagon argument.

The survey results should be expected, after all, loaded terms like "family planning" and "modern family planning" were associated with artificial contraceptives like condoms, IUDs and sterilization. Could Pulse Asia's team of analysts, "authorities" on population control like Mercedes Abad, Arsenio Balicasan and Zelda Zablan, have in any way influenced the gathering of data to their interpretation?

The survey respondents were not asked whether they were aware of modern natural birth control based on fertility awareness, like the Billings, Standard Days, Breast-feeding and Basal Body methods, and whether the government educated them about these other methods they already knew. The respondents were not asked whether they were aware of the side effects of the contraceptives they were using, an issue which is central to a real debate on reproductive health.

The problem is that the so-called pro-choice groups like PLCPD, funded by contraceptive grants, curtail the advance of natural family planning, the knowledge of and access to which are supposed to make judgments informed and "fair."

What was news were not really the survey results, but that the Church is supposedly against birth control itself, whereas Catholic teachings on sex (and also Stoic and Hindu) follows a procreative economics: no sex outside marriage, no divorce and remarriage, and responsible parenthood eliminates many undesirable births.

But, of course, what population controllers like PLCPD want is birth control by all means, including the use of abortifacient hormonal contraceptives and IUDs, based on the belief that there is overpopulation—again a flawed argument.

The New York Times' millennial edition declared overpopulation "one of the myths of the 20th century." The world's leading economists—including Nobel laureates in Economics like Simon Kuznets (1971), Gary Becker (1992), Amartya Sen (1998) and George Akerlof (2001)—say that a large population, if educated, employed and made productive, is a self-sustaining human capital. Singapore and many other Western countries used to draconian population control programs are now paying couples to have children. Is PLCPD promising any better?

Instead, we should oust PLCPD, a private entity pretending to be a government organization, from the House of Representatives, where it is lodging without legal authorization from Congress. This NGO, which lives on questionable polls and population myths, has no mandate to use public property.

—NICOLO F. BERNARDO,
editor in chief,
The Varsitarian,
University of Sto. Tomas, Manila

Thank you, South Cotabato and Gensan

MY THANKS TO MARK MEDALLA (INQUIRER, 5/21/07) and to his *kababayans* in South Cotabato and General Santos City for knocking my boxing hero Manny Pacquiao out of his bid for a seat in Congress.

The people of that province have spoken. Pacquiao and his cohorts in Malacañang should learn their lesson. Popularity is not everything, especially in Gensan.

—ROMEO DE LEON,
leon@eajb.com.sa

Youth very much around, but not with Left

THIS IS IN REACTION TO A LETTER, titled "Where's the youth?" of Emil Samaniego. (INQUIRER, 5/23/97) The youth have always been perceived as a sector of society which fights for what it believes in. This is what we exactly saw in the recent elections.

The youth must have wanted their sector to be represented in Congress, but it seems like the Kabataan party list failed to meet their expectations. The youth of today may be more vocal, but they don't want to be represented by a leftist group.

Although most of the youth do not approve of many things about the Arroyo administration, they want to respond in a different way.

—JAN RICHARD A. RENES,
jan_renes24@yahoo.com

How to end electoral anomalies

TO END, ONCE AND for all, electoral fraud and violence, and to free our dear teachers from the burden and risk that come with being assigned to serve as election inspectors, let's make a vow not to vote in the next elections, unless the voting/counting process shall have been fully automated.

If the Commission on Elections fails in computerizing the process, let's boycott the next elections.

—JEGIE TAGLE PEREDA,
jegie_tp@yahoo.com.ph

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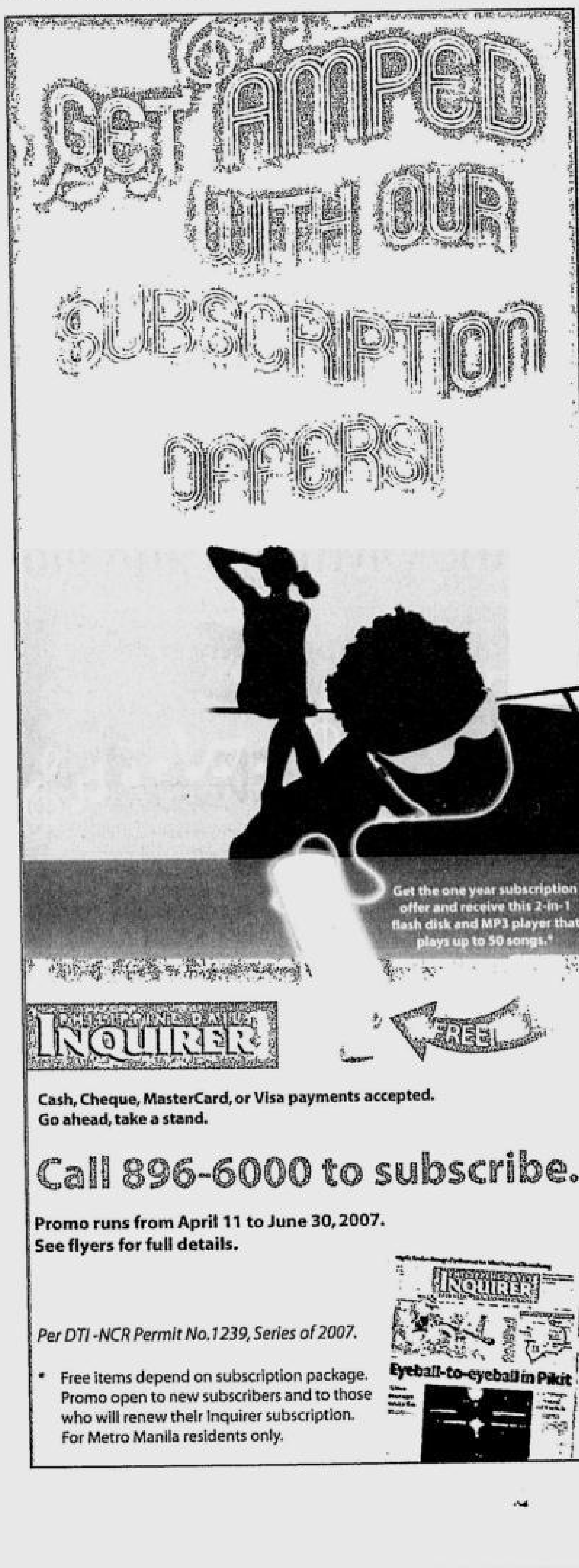

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Duterte cancels gun ban exemptions

DIGOS CITY—DAVAO CITY MAYOR RODRIGO Duterte has ordered the cancellation of all gun ban exemptions issued to personalities in Davao del Sur as the political tension continued to rise in the province.

For the past days, tension between the camps of Lakas gubernatorial candidate Rep. Douglas Cagas and his rival, Rep. Claude Bautista, has been going up.

The Commission on Elections has delayed the canvassing of election returns from at least four towns because of petition for exclusion filed by both camps.

The Cagas camp claimed that the result of the balloting in Malita town, the bailiwick of the Bautistas, was rigged while Bautista said there was evidence the results in Matanao, Bansalan and Sulop towns have been tampered with.

Maria Febes Barlaan, Comelec provincial supervisor, has submitted the petitions before the Comelec en banc for resolution.

Duterte, chair of the Southern Mindanao Peace and Order Council, said the total gun ban aims to prevent further bloodshed between the two groups.

He also warned Davao del Sur politicians and their bodyguards that they would be arrested if they brought firearms.

He said those refusing to surrender face the risk of being killed.

"If you do not surrender your firearms and you offer violent resistance to my order to the police and the military, then, they will have to kill you," Duterte warned.

He said nobody will be exempted from the order, including those from other provinces passing by Davao del Sur.

"Everybody would be subjected to body search to make sure no firearms could pass through the checkpoints," Duterte said.

Remlane Tambuang, Comelec director for Southern Mindanao, said Duterte has the power to revoke the exemptions being the chairman of the regional peace and order council.

"The police, the lead agency in the implementation of gun control, are under Duterte being the RPOC chairman," Tambuang told the INQUIRER.

The Comelec has earlier ordered the police and the military to deploy more troops to the province following a violent incident in Malita town involving political groups.

On May 16, Lakas mayoral candidate for Malita Isidro Sarmiento and his son, Danilo, were killed during a shoot out with followers of Bautista.

One of Bautista's bodyguards was injured in the incident, which was triggered by reports Danilo snatched an election return in Malita.

Authorities have filed charges against Bautista and his bodyguards.

Bautista vowed to cooperate with the investigation even as he denied firing a gun during the incident.

"I don't know why I am being charged. I did not carry a gun on that day," he said.

Bautista said his political opponents were taking advantage of the incident.

The National Bureau of Investigation, which is part of the inter-agency Task Force Sarmiento, said it has witnesses in its custody to back up the charges against Bautista. *Eldie Aguirre with a report from Dennis Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

'Incoming governor' starts giving orders

DIGOS CITY—LAKAS GUBERNATORIAL candidate Rep. Douglas Cagas, who claims to have defeated his rival, Rep. Claude Bautista of the Nationalist People's Coalition, has surprised department heads at the provincial government when he issued a memorandum "ordering" them to stop disbursing funds.

In the memorandum, which Cagas signed as the "Incoming Governor," he said only disbursements for personnel services and other mandatory expenses should be authorized.

"In view of my assumption as governor of the province of Davao del Sur, you are hereby asked to refrain from authorizing and making disbursement and all forms of transactions in order to protect and preserve all the monies (sic) and properties of the people of the province of Davao del Sur," he wrote in the undated memorandum.

Cagas' memorandum was received by department heads yesterday afternoon.

Some officials said they were surprised because even if Cagas has already won, he is technically not the governor yet.

An official who requested anonymity said elected officials could only take over on June 30.

Cagas said it was not a memorandum and that he was merely asking the officials to safeguard the funds.

He said the administration of Gov. Benjamin Bautista Jr. has been draining the funds of the province for their own benefit.

"It is my right as a citizen to help safeguard government funds. It was not a memorandum, it was a letter of request," he said.

But a copy of the memorandum even bore the paragraph: "For strict compliance."

Gregorio Verzosa, local government provincial officer, said Cagas is not yet authorized to issue memorandum to department heads concerning any transaction in the capitol.

"That is usurpation of power," Verzosa said in reaction to queries posted by various officials.

Renato Bartolo, provincial legal officer and administrator, said the resignation on Tuesday of Gov. Benjamin Bautista Jr. did not make Cagas the new governor.

Bautista resigned as the investigation on the murder charges against his brother, Representative Bautista, continued. *Eldie Aguirre and Dondon Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Joson to file election protest, calls '07 polls 'dirtiest'

ELEKSYON 2007

CABANATUAN CITY—CALLING the recent elections here as the "dirtiest and marked by many irregularities," outgoing Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III said he was filing an election protest against his rivals.

Joson, who lost in his mayoral bid here to a political newcomer, told reporters that his lawyers would file the protest after the proclamation of winners.

He said he would also file criminal charges against those who violated election laws, particularly those on vote buying.

Despite these "blatant violations before, during, and the counting and canvassing of votes, nobody is publicly denouncing them here," he said.

"If I will not do it here, who will?" Joson asked.

He said he was not hoping to overturn the results of the elections in which he lost by more than 11,000 votes to his rival, Alvin Vergara.

"What is important is to prove that there indeed was a mockery of the election laws and the sacred right of individuals to vote," he said.

His legal move, he added, might also unearth why there was a very low turnout of voters in the town.

He said more than 55,000 voters did not vote, adding that he received reports that many of them were told not to vote.

He said that with his protest, some people may come out in the open and talk about these violations. "This would help chart more honest and clean elections here [in the future]," he said.

A three-term governor, Joson said the defeat of his brother, Vice Gov. Mariano Cristino Joson, in the gubernatorial race was caused by his political enemy who projected his brother as "bold, daring and unapproachable."

He also said it may also be true that many voters in the province have abandoned them because of their close association with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In Abra, election officials on Thursday resumed counting the ballots in three precincts that would determine the fate of Gov. Vicente Valera.

Valera, who ran for representative of the province's lone congressional district, had been tailing his rival, Lagayan Mayor Cecilia Luna, by 747 votes.

Valera and Luna were awaiting the results of the canvassing from Barangays Anayan, Bilaac and Naglibacan in Tineg town.

The canvassing was suspended last week when a gunman shot and killed the wife of Tineg Mayor Edwin Crisologo at the Holy Spirit Academy in Bangued town where the ballots were being counted.

Lawyer Armando Velasco, Commission on Elections director in the Cordillera, arrived in Bangued, accompanied by 50 policemen and soldiers, to oversee the canvassing.

Operations at the provincial capitol were suspended when Velasco decided to proceed with the canvassing at the building's second floor.

But he did not start the count until Thursday afternoon. Comelec officials said Velasco waited for members of the board of electoral inspectors supervising the Tineg votes to surface and formally turn over the ballots to the new municipal board of canvassers (MBC) which he now heads.

Velasco also wanted assurance from Cordillera police director Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales that the attack on Brenda Crisologo, the mayor's murdered wife, would not happen again.

Police cordoned off the capitol building and only poll watchers and the candidates' lawyers had access to the MBC.

In Tuguegarao City, in Cagayan, the Comelec proclaimed Leonides Fausto as new vice governor and the winners in the province's three congressional districts after hearing legal arguments from the candidates' lawyers.

Michael Valdez, chair of the provincial board of canvassers (PBOC), said the poll body did not proclaim yet the winner in the gubernatorial race after the lawyers of candidate Alvaro Antonio protested the alleged fraudulent entries in the election returns and other irregularities.

Also proclaimed were Salvacion Ponce Enrile, representative of the first district; Florencio Vargas of the second district; and Manuel Mamba of the third district.

Valdez said the provincial election results and pieces of evidence of alleged fraud would be sent to the Comelec in Manila which would decide on the winning gubernatorial candidate.

In Bulacan, the Comelec proclaimed Joselito Mendoza, younger brother of outgoing Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, as the new governor of Bulacan, amid claims of massive fraud and cheating by his losing rival.

Mendoza is chair of Barangay Duhat in Bocaue town.

Lawyer Wynne Asdala, chair of the provincial board of canvassers, said Mendoza, with 364,566 votes, won by 15,732 votes over former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan who got 348,834 votes.

The Comelec denied Pagdanganan's petition to delay the proclamation due to alleged discrepancies in the copies of election returns.

Discrepancies

In Cagayan, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) cited "errors and discrepancies" during the canvass of the election returns before the board of canvassers.

The PPCRV said among the discrepancies were:

"While the total votes of Mamba in the election returns from Tuao town totaled 22,808, his votes were 25,402 in the certificate of canvass (COC) or a difference of 2,594 votes for Mamba.

"The votes of congressional candidate Randolph Ting in the election returns in Tuao totaled 198 but in the COC, his votes were 192.

"While Antonio got 18,974 votes according to the election returns from Tuao, in the COC he got 20,368 votes.

"Antonio's rival, reelectionist Gov. Edgar Lara, had 1,944 votes in the election returns from Tuao but in the COC, he got 1,951 votes.

"In the vice gubernatorial race, Fausto got 19,964 votes according to the election returns from Tuao but in the COC, he got 20,950 votes.

Lara decried what he called "bias" of the PBOC when it excluded the votes from Lal-lo town and included the votes from Tuao to allegedly favor Antonio.

Lara won in the final tally of the PBOC. *Anselmo Roque and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Ma, 3 kids killed in Cebu City fire

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A 25-YEAR-OLD MOTHER AND her three small children were burnt to death when a fire engulfed their house shortly after 3 p.m. yesterday in Doña Cristina, Banawa, Guadalupe, Cebu City.

The fatalities were identified as Emma Diaz, 25; and her daughters Ritchel Verano, 5, and eight-month old Nikky; and son Devinsen, 3.

City fire investigator SFO2 Felix Romero said the fire occurred while the father, Aurelio Verano Jr., was working as "Kristo" (barker and bet taker) in a cockpit in Banawa, about a kilometer away from the house.

"He was very emotional upon seeing the bodies of his wife and children," Romero said.

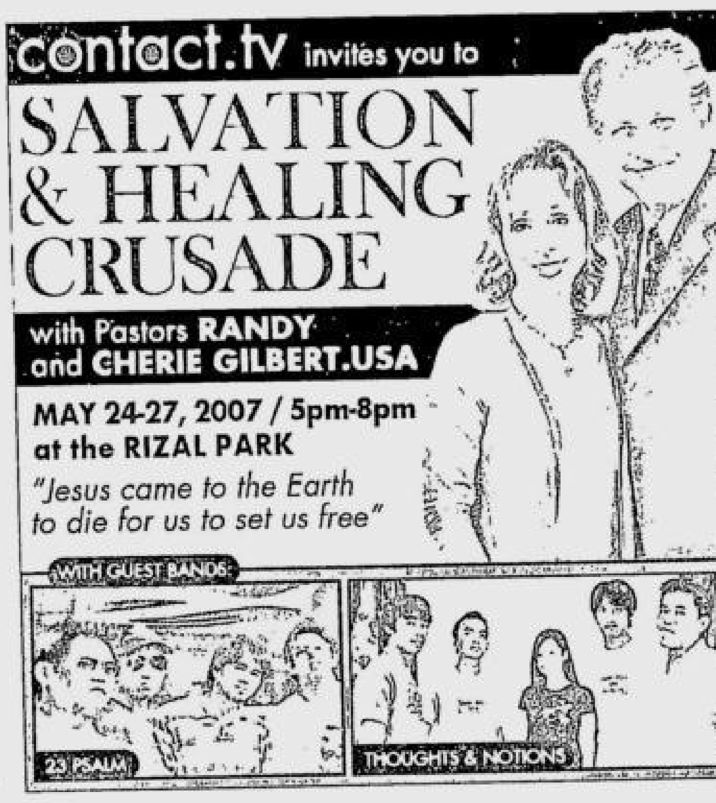
Romero added that they have yet to determine what caused the fire.

He said some neighbors heard the victims crying and shouting for help but they could not get inside the blazing house.

Romero said Verano had raised a suspicion that his wife could have deliberately set the house on fire.

Romero said Verano told him that four days before the incident, his wife tried to burn their house after they had a fight.

Damage was pegged at P25,000.



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
EMBOSSING/FABRICATION OF 325,000 PCS. PRIVATE MC PLATES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE REGIONAL OFFICES

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Funds (Funds 101) intends to apply the sum of Seven Million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 7,910,500.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the embossing/fabrication of 325,000 pcs. Private MC Plates for distribution to the Regional Offices. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00 in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 30, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on June 13, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount In % of Approved Budget For the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	*One percent (1%)*
2. Bank guarantee	*One and a half percent (1 ½%)*
3. Surety Bond	*Two and a half percent (2 ½%)*
4. Foreign government guarantee	*One hundred percent (100%)*

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on June 13, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan – Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 - telefax

Engr. Roberto S. Se – Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee
Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9292015 – telefax

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – May 26, 2007)

Albay gov rues delayed rehab fund release

LEGAZPI CITY—THE DELAYED release of calamity funds intended for Albay through the general appropriations bill by Congress is hampering the rehabilitation of damaged facilities and relocation of displaced storm survivors, Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez yesterday said.

The funds yet to be released are the P160-million local government unit (LGU) fund and the P500-million resettlement fund. These are part of the government's P10-billion Calamity Assistance, Rehabilitation Effort (Care) program.

Gonzalez said they were supposed to fast-track rehabilitation and relocation, especially now that the rainy season is coming but the provincial government's plans were put on hold until the funds are released.

"I cannot anymore say what's going on in this government. The President said the funds for the LGUs have to be prioritized. But where are the much-needed funds now?" Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said funds were urgently needed for the relocation of about 2,800 families still living in transit shelters. They have been living in tents and makeshift shelters since December.

He said the provincial government has bought lands in Camalig and Anislag but the National Housing Authority (NHA) has yet to develop them.

The NHA resettlement plan was allocated P526.6 million for acquisition of 137 hectares of land and construction of housing units.

Rebecca Olayon, DBM-Bicol director, said the funds that have been released were only those for Catanduanes—P25 million; the repair of Department of Health-run hospitals—P129.5 million, and for the repair of state universities and colleges (SUCs)-—P276.4 million.

Olayon said she also wondered what caused the delay and that they only waited for instructions from the DBM central office.

The general appropriations bill was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on March 22 and took effect on April 8. The Care fund was exempted from the election ban.

Under the act, the heavily damaged areas, which were mainly in the Bicol region, were allocated bigger funds by the National Disaster Coordinating Council based on proposals submitted by line agencies and LGUs.

The sharing of the P10-billion Care fund was: Department of Agriculture, P1 billion; agrarian reform, P500 million; energy, P500 million; health, P300 million; social welfare and development, P750 million; national defense, P1.3 billion; public works and highways, P2 billion; state colleges and universities, P400 million; NHA, P750 million; LGUs, P500 million; and repair of school buildings, P2 billion.

Supertyphoon "Reming" triggered lahar from Mt. Mayon which caused the deaths of more than a thousand people and displaced more than 258,962 families.

It damaged P5.5 billion worth of crops and roads and bridges.

Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Agri dep't gives 35% of budget to Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture has set aside 35 percent of its annual budget for Mindanao to boost the island's food production potential, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said.

Yap did not give figures but he said President Macapagal-Arroyo has also approved the release of funds to rehabilitate irrigation facilities in the island.

Yap, who was here Wednesday for the launching of the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) 2, said the national government has made the improvement of food production in Mindanao one of its priorities.

He said the funding allocation for food production projects would be distributed according to the absorption capacity of the local government units (LGUs).

"Along with the food production development, DA likewise is working on interventions to give Mindanao food producers access to the domestic and global markets," Yap said.

He said past efforts have already been showing up as evidenced by the increasing value of Mindanao food exports.

"I have the guts to ask for funding because the private sector knows what to focus on. Partnership is very important," Yap said.

Yap also said the implementation of the World Bank-backed MRDP project is one way of spurring economic development in Mindanao. MRDP was first launched in 1999.

For its second phase, the amount involved is about $123.75 million.

Yap said under MRDP 2, agriculture support projects such as infrastructure, environmental conservation and capacity building among the beneficiaries will be continued.

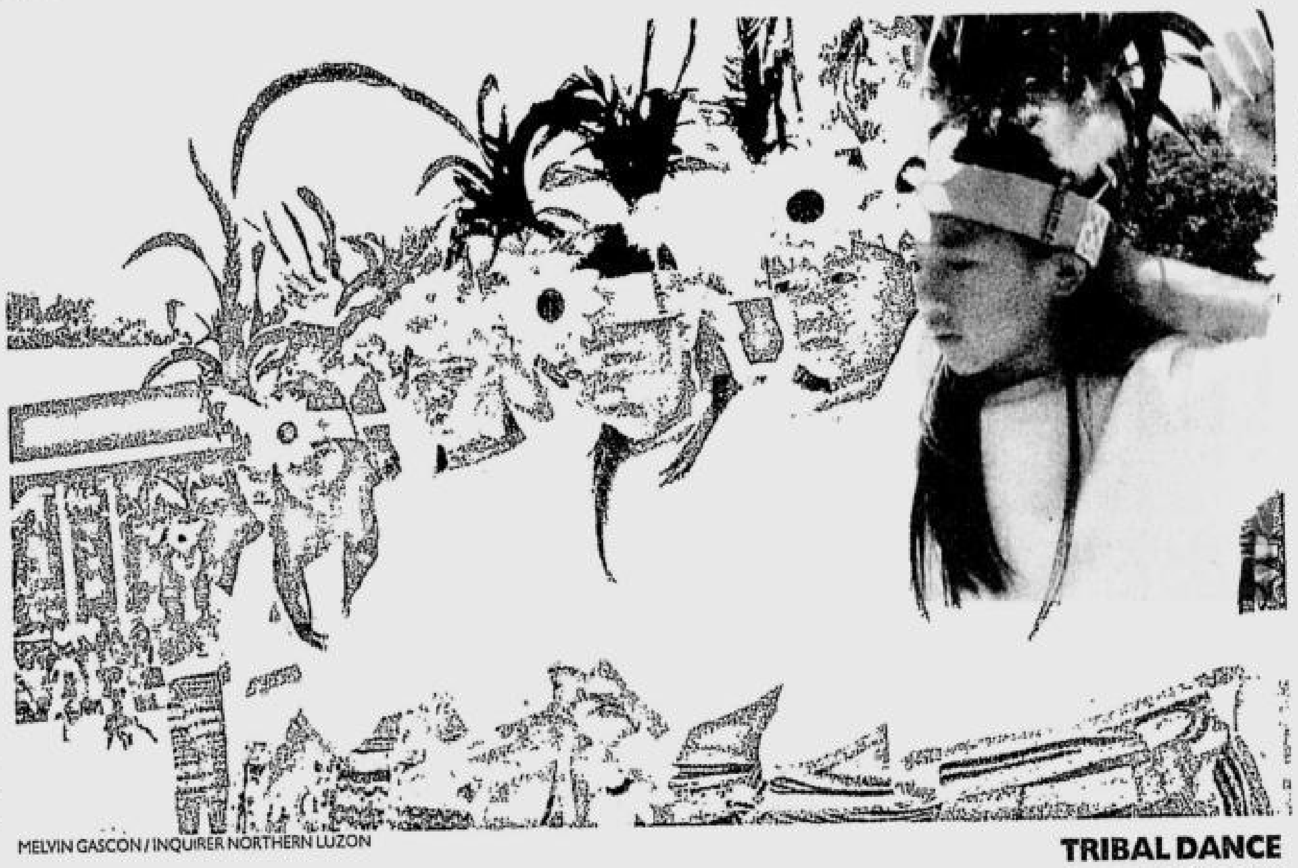
MRDP 2 will cover at least 27 provinces and 225 municipalities in Mindanao.

"It has been successful that's why we are entering a second phase," he told the INQUIRER.

Yap also said more livelihood programs will be funded under MRDP 2.

"Various livelihood programs under the Community Fund for Agricultural Development worth at least P1.5 billion is expected to be made available under MRDP 2," Yap said.

Dennis Jay C. Santos and Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao



MELVIN GASCON / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

TRIBAL DANCE **Ifugao and Kalanguya girls from Dupax del Norte town show off their native dance in the tribal street dancing competition during Thursday's celebration of the 168th founding anniversary of Nueva Vizcaya.**

ROUNDUP

Soldiers, NPA rebels clash

DIGOS CITY—Army soldiers and communist rebels clashed in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, on Wednesday, the military said. A report by the 39th Infantry Battalion said soldiers were patrolling Barangay Sibulan when they chanced upon New People's Army (NPA) rebels at around 2:45 p.m. A 30-minute encounter ensued as the rebels, belonging to NPA Front Committee 51, fled to different directions," Lt. Bruce Tokong, battalion spokesperson, said.

Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

Village leader shot dead

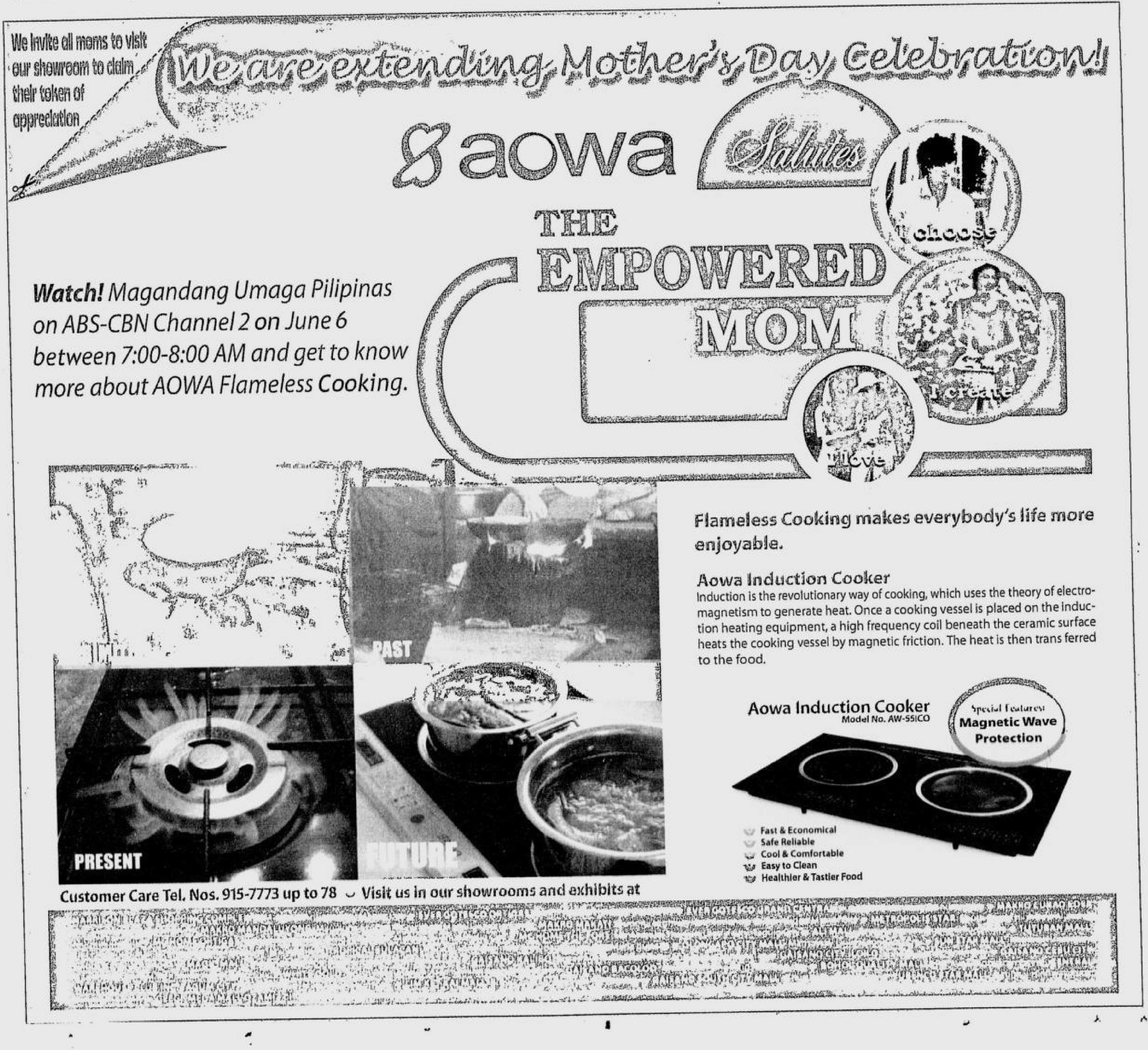
MABALACAT, Pampanga—A village official was shot and killed by a lone gunman on Wednesday night, police said. Benigno Sigua, 50, chair of Purok Villa Teodora in Barangay Dau, died before reaching the St. Raphael Hospital, police said. Reports showed that the victim was having a drinking spree with a friend when the assailant, whose face was covered with a handkerchief, shot him four times in the head and chest. On May 1, Sigua survived a gun attack in front of his house.

Jun Malig, Inquirer Central Luzon

Bomb explodes in store

BAGUIO CITY—An improvised bomb went off in front of a hardware store owned by a supporter of a town mayor in Agoo, La Union, early Thursday. No one was reported hurt. The bomb was thrown by three motorcycle-riding men in front of Southern La Union Gravel and Sand General Merchandise at around 1 a.m. The store is owned by Ronnie Baldemor, a supporter of Agoo Mayor Eufronio Eriquel.

Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon



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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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THE REHABILITATION of Guimaras areas affected by the 2006 oil spill is on hold as the government has put a condition for the release of funds. ARNOLD ALMACEN

A question of endurance for Guimaras folk

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

NEARLY FOUR MONTHS AFTER receiving damage compensation worth P3,000-P32,000 for the environmental and economic havoc that last year's oil spill had wrought on Guimaras Island, claimants are still at a loss as to how to survive. Some, however, choose to endure and continue running after their dreams.

"For a time, people were happy with the amount they received, but we don't know about the following months or years," said Lorna Vilchez, a native of Naoway Island. Two child fishermen from Naoway received P18,000 each on Dec. 20, 2006, as one-time compensation from the London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.

What plans Lorna had for her five children were thrown into disarray after the bunker fuel oil spill on Aug. 11, 2006 by the MV Solar I tanker, which was hired by Petron Corp. to move 2.1 million liters of fuel from Bataan to Zamboanga.

And yet, she believes that circumstances can become better for her family, who represents what the provincial government calls "directly and indirectly affected" by the tragedy.

Her youngest son, Julo 21, was banking on his fisherman-brother to send him to Central Philippine University in Iloilo City to pursue an agriculture degree and even when he downgraded his ambition to a two-year course in drafting at Western Visayas College of Science and Technology.

He had to put his dreams on hold when the oil spill forced him to remain in Iloilo City where he works as a houseboy in a pension house.

From his compensation as claimant, Julo's brother, Jury, 31, bought a fishing boat worth P13,000 to replace the one damaged by Supertyphoon "Reming," hoping that he could catch more fish and help his brother and family.

Education is way out

Lorna pins her hopes for a better life on Julo, who was the representative of Western Visayas in the 3rd Student Technologists and Entrepreneurs of the Philippines-National Skills Development Competition in Naga City in 2004. Julo earlier won first place in the competition for Asexual Plant Propagation held in Passi City, Iloilo.

Lorna, who also works as a househelp in the pension house, banks on her son's determination and dedication to work and studies. Any course Julo would finish could go a long way in helping the whole family, she says.

Julo, who graduated from the Desiderio C. Gange National High School in Sibunag, Guimaras, holds on to his ambition of obtaining a college course and works on saving enough money to see him through college despite his family's dire financial straits.

Although the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has repeatedly advised that fish caught in Guimaras are safe because they swim away from polluted waters, buyers still refuse to buy the marine products—making things difficult for the Vilchez family.

Lorna's husband Cirilo and their second child Liezel may not be directly affected by the oil spill, but their fish vending business in inland Barangay Dasal in Sibunag town had to stop.

Rehabilitation efforts

The livelihood and health of 5,437 families or 26,740 persons have been affected by the oil spill.

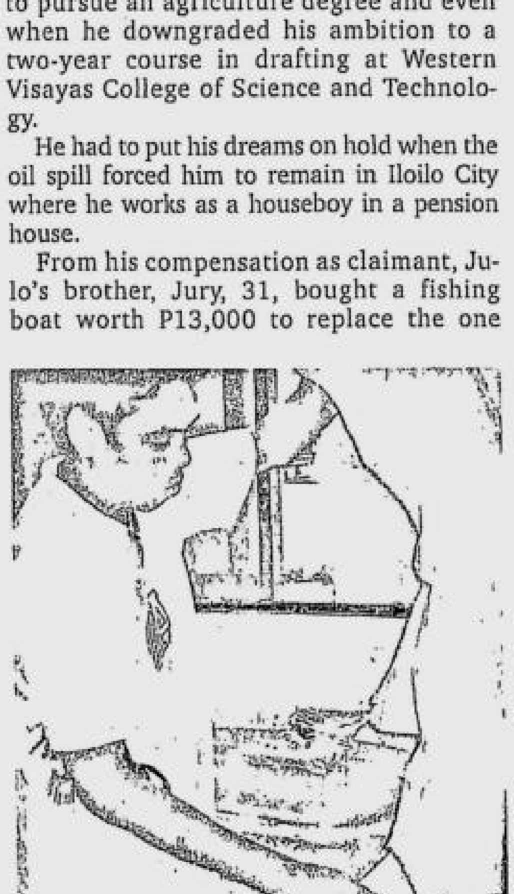
What was little left of the oil had been siphoned off in March from the tanker, which lies 640 meters deep in southern Guimaras, by Sonsub, an Italian-based deep water operations company commissioned by the Protection and Indemnity Club.

However, rehabilitation efforts for the island and its residents have hit a snag after the Department of Budget and Management came out with a "no performance, no release" policy as a condition for the release of the P800-million government fund.

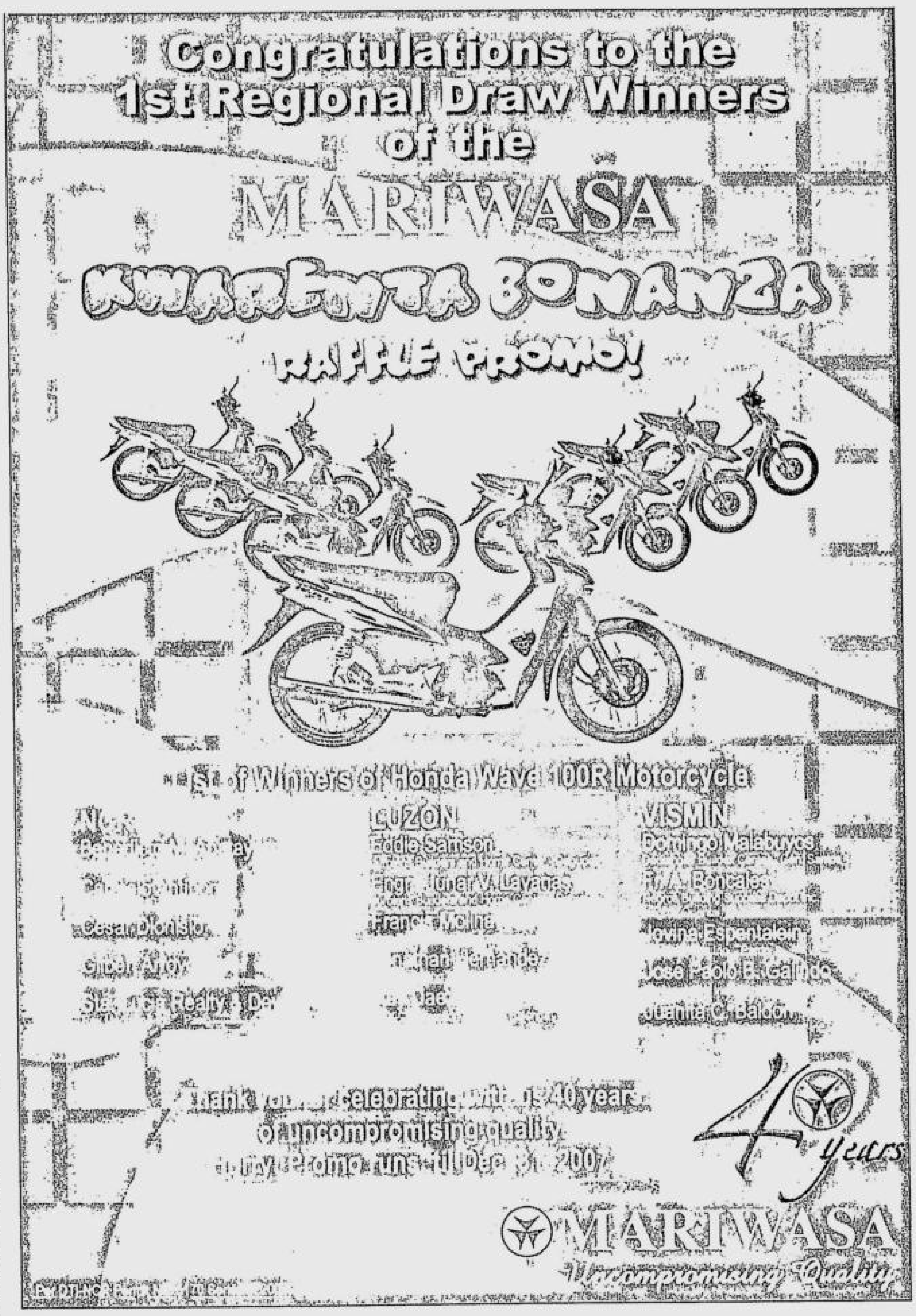
"It is not a matter of releasing it. It is how it will be used," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. had said in March during a regional economic briefing in Iloilo City.

The DBM said it had already released more than P199 million since February to government agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

How and when things will return to normal in Guimaras is far from the mind of Julo at this point. For him and his family, endurance is the key word to life's "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune."



JULO Vilchez, a native of Guimaras, works as a houseboy in a pension house in Iloilo City to save enough money for his college tuition.
HAZEL P. VILLA



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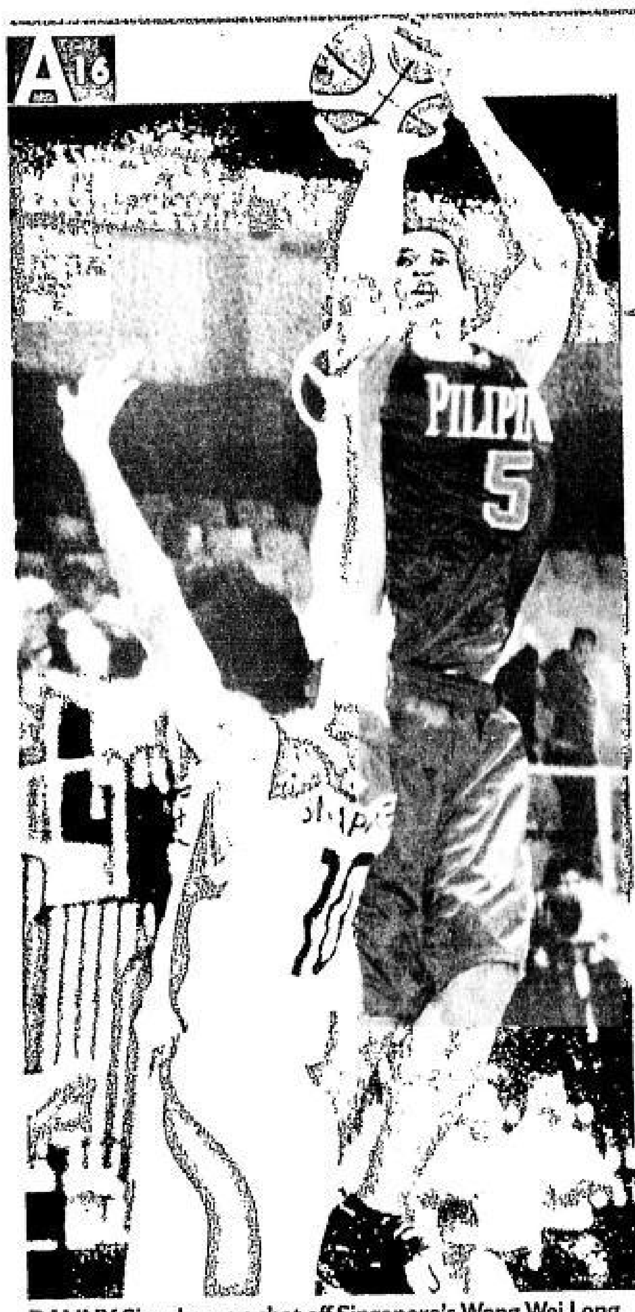

DANNY Siegel pops a shot off Singapore's Wong Wei Long during the decisive RP surge in the second quarter.

Debuting RP five posts huge win vs Singapore

By Francis Ochoa

RATCHABURI, THAILAND—THERE IS SUCH A thing as an overkill. And then there is RP-San Miguel versus Singapore.

The Nationals gave mismatch a new meaning, opening their bid in a tournament whose field they were preordained to rip apart with a 122-55 show of might against the Singaporeans in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) men's championship Friday at the Ratchaburi gymnasium.

After an unimpressive start, the RP squad went for the jugular in the second period, opening up a 57-32 lead, before cruising the rest of the way for its first win in the tournament, also known here as the Crown Prince Cup.

But coach Chot Reyes, who always found a way to downplay defeats in a previous tournament, sold the RP five's huge victory short.

"We came into the game with certain goals in mind and we failed to meet them," Reyes said. "We wanted to limit our turnovers to below 10 and we wanted to outscore Singapore by 10 every quarter."

STANDINGS	W	L
Philippines	1	0
Thailand	1	0*
Indonesia	1,	0
Malaysia	0	1*
Singapore	0	2

*still playing at presstime

GAMES TODAY

4 p.m.—Singapore vs Malaysia
6 p.m.—RP San Miguel vs Indonesia

The Nationals missed the first goal by two—the last of which came in a botched fastbreak sequence in the fourth, where the RP five tried to get KG Canaleta into showtime mode—and the other by one quarter.

Singapore surprised the Philippines with a snappy zone defense aided by loud shouting to put the RP squad out of synch in the first period. Also, the Singaporeans, who lost to Thailand, 75-50, on opening day, buried five treys right in the first quarter, including three in the first four minutes.

As a result, the Philippines managed just a 30-23 lead after 10 minutes of play and even trailed by as many as five in that stretch.

"We didn't get the start we wanted," Reyes said. "It was a combination of us taking the opponents lightly and them (Singaporeans) hitting five triples early."

Mark Caguioa led the RP team with 24 points on 10-of-17 shooting. Dondon Hontiveros had 22 points and 12 rebounds, while Danny Seigle added 20 markers as six RP players scored in twin digits.

Wong Soon Yuh fired 12 points and Koh Meng Koon had nine for Singapore.

The Philippines takes on Indonesia at 6 p.m. today (7 p.m. in Manila), with both teams gunning for a second straight victory and at least a share of the lead. Indonesia surprised Malaysia on opening day, 72-66.

The scores:

RP-SAN MIGUEL 122—Caguioa 24, Hontiveros 22, Seigle 20, Villanueva 11, Ritualo 11, Canaleta 11, Taulava 7, Pennisi 6, Alapag 4, De Ocampo 4, Raymundo 2, Helterbrand 0.

SINGAPORE 55—Wong SY 12, Koh 9, Wong WL 8, Khoo 8, Aw 5, Matialakan 5, Low 3, Ching 3, Oh 2, Lim 0, Shanmudagas 0, Fu 0.

Quarters: 30-23, 57-32, 89-47, 122-55

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WAITING GAME FOR HABEAS CORPUS DECISION

Delay worries MJ wife's lawyer

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE LAWYER OF CAROL CASTAÑEDA, estranged wife of former Rep. Mark Jimenez, is worried about the week-long delay in the resolution of their petition for habeas corpus.

"I'm not so confident anymore that the petition will be granted in our favor," Lorna Kapunan told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview.

Her other client, Rose Flaminiano, Castañeda's half-sister, filed last week in the Las Piñas City Regional Trial Court Branch 202 a petition for a writ of habeas corpus to force Jimenez to produce his wife.

Flaminiano said she saw eight men abduct her sister in broad daylight on May 16 as she was on her way to meet Kapunan. Castañeda earlier accused Jimenez of physical and mental abuse. Jimenez, in turn, claimed his wife was a drug addict who needed rehabilitation.

Castañeda was later reported to be confined at the Silvercrest Foundation, a drug rehabilitation facility in Las Piñas City reportedly owned by a relative of Jimenez. Silvercrest was also included in the petition for writ of habeas corpus.

"Normally, a petition for a writ of habeas corpus is decided immediately. The longest is 48 hours. But it's taking the court almost a week," Kapunan said.

On Monday, Judge Elizabeth Yu-Guray of Branch 202 said she would defer her decision on the petition after hearing the testimonies of Flaminiano and Virgilio Crespo, Jimenez's son.

"We were told that the judge attended a seminar for three days, so she was unable to act on it. Usually, a writ of habeas corpus is acted upon immediately," Kapunan said.

Kapunan, however, conceded that the judge had other matters to attend to.

The court was expected to issue its resolution on the petition yesterday, but there was no decision as of press time.

"It's still appealable though," Kapunan said when asked what they would do if their petition was denied.

She also asked the court to issue warrants of arrest for Jimenez and Diana Crespo, owner of Silvercrest.

Kapunan said Jimenez's refusal to appear in court was enough grounds to cite him for contempt, and to have him arrested.

"Again, we're appealing to Mr. Jimenez: Produce the body of Carol. That's what habeas corpus is all about. Even top-ranking generals follow the writ of habeas corpus," the lawyer added.

Permits needed for QC 'tiangges'

By Margaux C. Ortiz

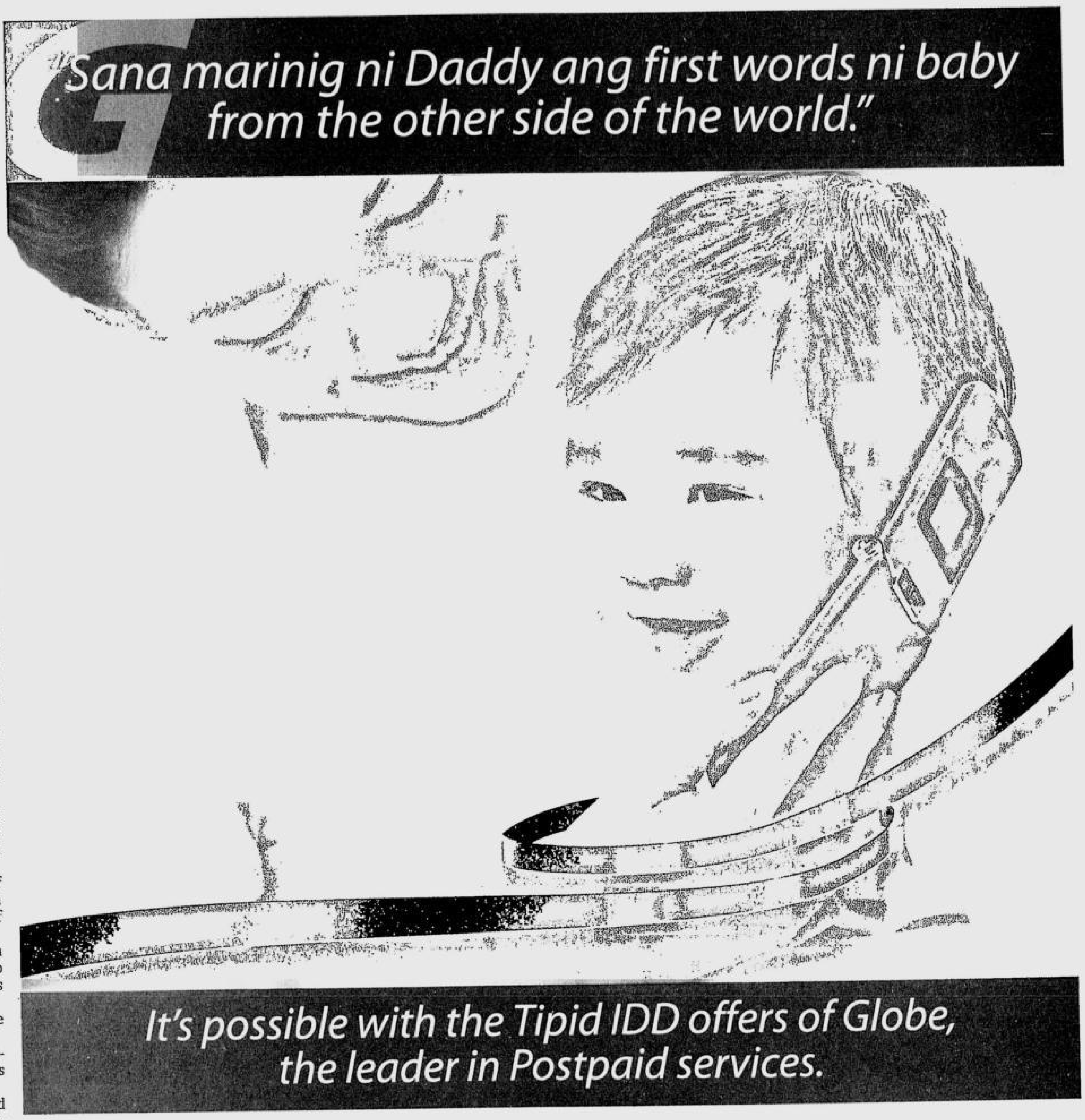
THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT HAS taken steps to regulate privilege stores or *tiangges* in the city.

Reelected city mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has signed an ordinance that will set down regulatory measures for the operation of privilege stores, so called because no permit was required to operate one in the past.

In the ordinance authored by Councilor Franz Pumaren, it was noted that these stores had become familiar sights in parts of the country.

The ordinance said a new breed of profitable business enterprises had emerged that operated "in a nomadic fashion, making it dif-

PERMITS/A18



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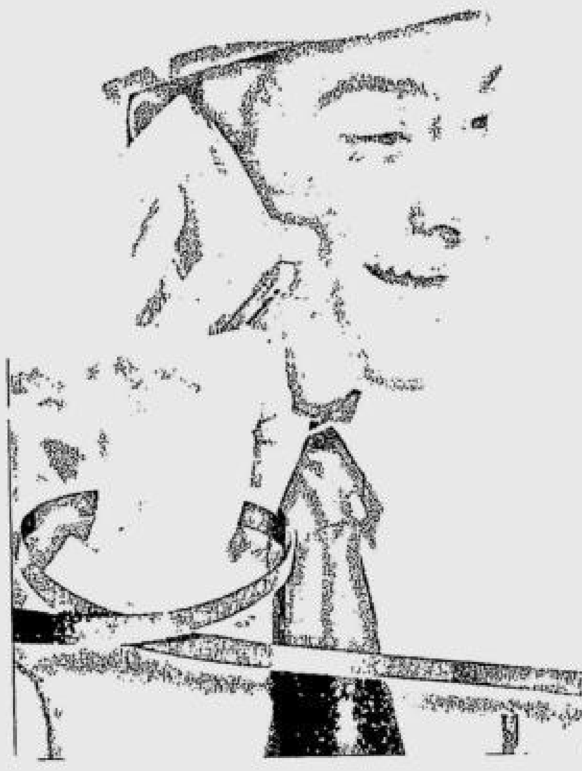

Outland
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NBI nabs man for luring investors in fake research project

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation yesterday warned women about engaging in business opportunities with men they only met through the Internet.

The warning came after NBI agents arrested a Malaysian who allegedly lured unsuspecting women into investing millions of pesos in a bogus medical research business.

Arrested in an entrapment operation in Davao City was Thavarajah Sandrasegaram, 55, of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"Most of his victims were middle-aged women who usually engage in Internet chats. He used the Internet as a medium to gain the trust and confidence of his prospective victims," said lawyer Ruel Lasala, head of the NBI National Capital Region.

One victim, a middle-aged woman from Biñan, Laguna, told the NBI that she was befriended by the suspect through the Internet. She said the suspect pretended to be an American doctor who had a contract with the Seattle Baptist Hospital in Washington, USA.

The victim alleged that the suspect offered to assist her in getting a US visa for P240,000. The visa was never delivered. Last February, the suspect allegedly enticed another Filipino woman through the Internet. Introducing himself as a kidney surgeon/nephrologist connected with a US hospital, the suspect allegedly claimed that he had been visiting the Philippines for the past 11 years on a medical mission under the Asean Kidney Foundation.

The suspect reportedly convinced the victim to invest in a medical research he was set to undertake in the Philippines which, he claimed, would yield billions of pesos, Lasala said.

"As initial investment, the suspect asked for P1 million to help set up the basic requirements for the research. Believing it was a good investment, the victim gave the suspect P1 million when the latter arrived in March," Lasala said, adding that the Malaysian asked for an additional P600,000 before leaving for Singapore.

The victim immediately sought the help of the NBI in Manila as soon as she found out that the suspect had lied about his affiliation with the hospital.

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PRE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

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Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil, HV Winding: 13,200 / 7,620 Volts
LV Winding: 120/240 Volts, % Impedance: 2.0, Frequency: 60 Hz
BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses: No Load Loss - 138 watts, Full Load Loss - 635 watts

3.) 15 Units Pole Mounted 50 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
Single Phase, Conventional, Double Bushing, Additive Polarity
Filled with Non-PCB Edible Oil, HV Winding: 13,200/7,620 Volts
LV Winding: 120/240 Volts, % Impedance: 2.0, Frequency: 60 Hz
Losses: No Load Loss - 110 watts, Full Load Loss - 515 watts

4.) 15 Units Pole Mounted 50 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
Single Phase, CSP, Additive Polarity: Operating Frequency 60 Hz
Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil, BIL: HV Winding: 13,200/7,620 Volts
LV Winding: 120/240 Volts, % Impedance: 2.0.
BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses: No Load Loss - 110 watts, Full Load Loss - 515 watts

5.) 15 Units Pole Mounted 37 5 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
Single Phase, CSP, Polarity: Additive, Operating Frequency 60 Hz
Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil, HV Winding: 13,200/7,620 Volts
LV Winding: 120/240 Volts, % Impedance: 2.0,
BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses: No Load Loss - 82 watts, Full Load Loss - 378 watts

6.) 15 Units Pole Mounted 37.5 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
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Operating Frequency 60 Hz, Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil,
HV Winding: 13,200 / 7,620 Volts, LV Winding: 120/240 Volts,
% Impedance: 2.0, BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses: No Load Loss - 82 watts, Full Load Loss - 378 watts

7.) 15 Units Pole Mounted 25 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
Single Phase, CSP, Polarity: Additive, Operating Frequency 60 Hz
Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil, HV Winding: 13,200/7,620 Volts
LV Winding: 120/240 Volts, % Impedance: 2.0,
BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses. No Load Loss - 59 watts, Full Load Loss - 289 watts

8.) 15 Units Pole Mounted 25 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
Single Phase, Conventional, Double Bushing, Polarity: Additive,
Operating Frequency 60 Hz, Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil,
HV Winding: 13,200/7,620 Volts, LV Winding: 120/240 Volts,
% Impedance: 2.0, BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses. No Load Loss - 59 watts, Full Load Loss - 289 watts

9.) 30 Units Pole Mounted 15 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
Single Phase, CSP, Polarity: Additive, Operating Frequency 60 Hz
Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil, HV Winding: 13,200/7,620 Volts
LV Winding: 120/240 Volts, % Impedance: 2.0.
BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses: No Load Loss - 34 watts, Full Load Loss - 226 watts

10.) 30 Units Pole Mounted 10 KVA DX Transformer (Brand New)
Single Phase, CSP, Polarity: Additive, Opearting Frequency 60 Hz
Filled with Non-PCB Mineral Oil, HV Winding: 7,620 Volts
LV Winding: 120/240 Volts, % Impedance: 2.0.
BIL: HV Winding - 95 KV, LV Winding - 30 KV
Losses: No Load Loss - 28 watts, Full Load Loss - 121 watts

A pre-qualification of bidder conference will be held on June 4, 2007 at the Leyeco II Board Room, LEYECO II New Office Building at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon. The following documents have to be presented to wit:

a) Letter of Intent
b) Original/certified True Copy of Supplier's License/Accreditation
c) Business Permit
d) SEC Registration
e) Certified True Copy of the Latest Financial Statement and Latest Income Tax Return
f) Verified Copy of Certificate of Availability (Duly Notarized)

Bidding documents shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). Time and venue of the opening of bids shall be discussed during the pre-bid conference. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offered.

LEYECO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality thereof and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the cooperative. The decision of the cooperative is final and binding.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROMMEL P. MORON
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - May 26, 2007)

Permits...

From page A17

ficult for the city government to track them down and compel their owners to pay the rightful fees and taxes due the government."

After signing the ordinance Thursday, Belmonte immediately ordered the city's market development and administration department to ensure that the rules and regulations covered environmental concerns, safety, security, pollution, traffic management, disposal and aesthetics.

"These *tiangges* are now eating into the business of malls and department stores," Belmonte said.

He added: "The regulatory measures put in place and their enforcement will ensure that the operation of *tiangges* will not prejudice the public welfare."

The stores will be required to get a permit from the city council, at least 60 days before the start of their operation, apart from the regular business permit. *With Verity Ayrah B. Cabigao*

Gracious loser bids politics goodbye

By Julie M. Aurelio

EVEN HER RIVALS WILL HAVE TO ADmit she is a most gracious loser.

Unlike most losing candidates in last week's elections, Pasay City Rep. Consuelo Dy did not cry foul after losing in the mayoral race.

Instead, she is now planning to begin life anew as plain citizen Connie.

"This is God's sign that I should quit politics after nine years," Dy said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

A two-term congresswoman, who first won as city councilor in 1998, Dy ran under the administration ticket against dismissed Pasay City mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

After a neck and neck race, Trinidad was finally proclaimed mayor-elect Sunday night after spending eight months out of City Hall.

In a country where almost every losing politician claims to have been cheated, Dy accepted her defeat with dignity.

"Of course, I felt hurt when I lost after all that effort. But I'm starting to recover now," she said, two days after Trinidad was proclaimed.

Asked if she planned to protest her rival's proclamation, Dy said, "My lawyers have told me that there are legal means to pursue it, but I'm not the type to do that. *Hindi ako naghahabol sa puwesto.*" (I'm not one to run after an elective post).

CONNIE DY INQUIRER PHOTO

By June 30, she will be just another Pasay City resident, a doting grandmother to Mickey, 7, and Jill, 4.

"It's about time, I think, to listen to my family and to my husband. They don't really want me to be in politics," Dy said with a laugh.

Her husband, Joey, was against her entering politics from the start. Her bid for the mayoral seat, she said, was an all-or-nothing agreement with Joey.

"It was a make-or-break deal with my husband. We agreed that if I won as mayor, I would continue. But if I lost, I would have to leave politics," Dy said.

She added that she was also not a politico at heart. "I'm not really a politician. I don't plan to run again, ever."

Dy said, "I think God has seen that I have done something for the people, and now He's telling me that (the mayor's seat) is not for me."

Dy bears no grudges. Before running for mayor, she facilitated the donation of P50 million worth of hospital supplies and equipment to the Pasay City General Hospital.

The donation included an ambulance, a dialysis machine and a new incubator for the hospital that handles mostly indigent patients.

"I just wanted to serve. I am not choosy when helping my constituents, even if they belong to the other camp," she said.

She is now grateful for the chance to spend time with her family, especially her husband, who had been supportive despite his objections. "At last, I can go back to being a mother and grandmother again," she laughed.

The 54-year-old grandmother plans to spend as much time as she can with her two granddaughters.

"Of course, it's really different when you are able to bond with your family. This is not to say that I neglected them, but I'm thankful for the opportunity to be able to serve," she said.

In her spare time, Dy plans to concentrate on personal projects to help the needy, though she refused to go into details.

"Maybe the people of Pasay City are not yet ready for a different kind of politics. But the people have decided, and I respect that," she said.

Hanky-panky after conference

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HOLDUPS IN BUSES, JEEPNEYS AND taxicabs are so rampant it's possible some of your relatives, friends or acquaintances have become victims, if you have not been a victim yourself.

The robbers have become so brazen they didn't even spare a cop, Supt. Joven Bocalbos, Makati police deputy chief, whom they killed.

Why have robbers and other street criminals like bag or cellular phone snatchers become so brazen?

Because there are no uniformed cops patrolling the streets. Policemen sit on their butts at the police precincts or stations waiting for complainants to come to them.

The bulging tummies of most policemen are a testament to their laziness.

* * *

Have you seen uniformed policemen walking in pairs in the streets or police cars going around in the metropolis?

If you have, consider yourself lucky! Consider yourself even luckier to see a police patrol car going around at night. It's as if you've found a chicken with teeth.

The only way to prevent crimes from taking place is for uniformed policemen to be seen in the streets mingling with the crowd or patrolling in lonely street corners.

* * *

An official of the Philippine National Police (PNP) hold conferences aboard a yacht sailing on Manila Bay.

So what's wrong with that?

Nothing, except that after the conference the DILG official and the PNP officer and their friends allegedly have a sex orgy with prostitutes they hire for the occasion.

One of the girls hired for one of the sessions said prostitutes were given P100,000 each.

Where did they get the money to pay the prostitutes? From the intelligence fund?

* * *

I may have differences with this administration, but I admire the way Team Unity has so far conducted itself during the post election tally.

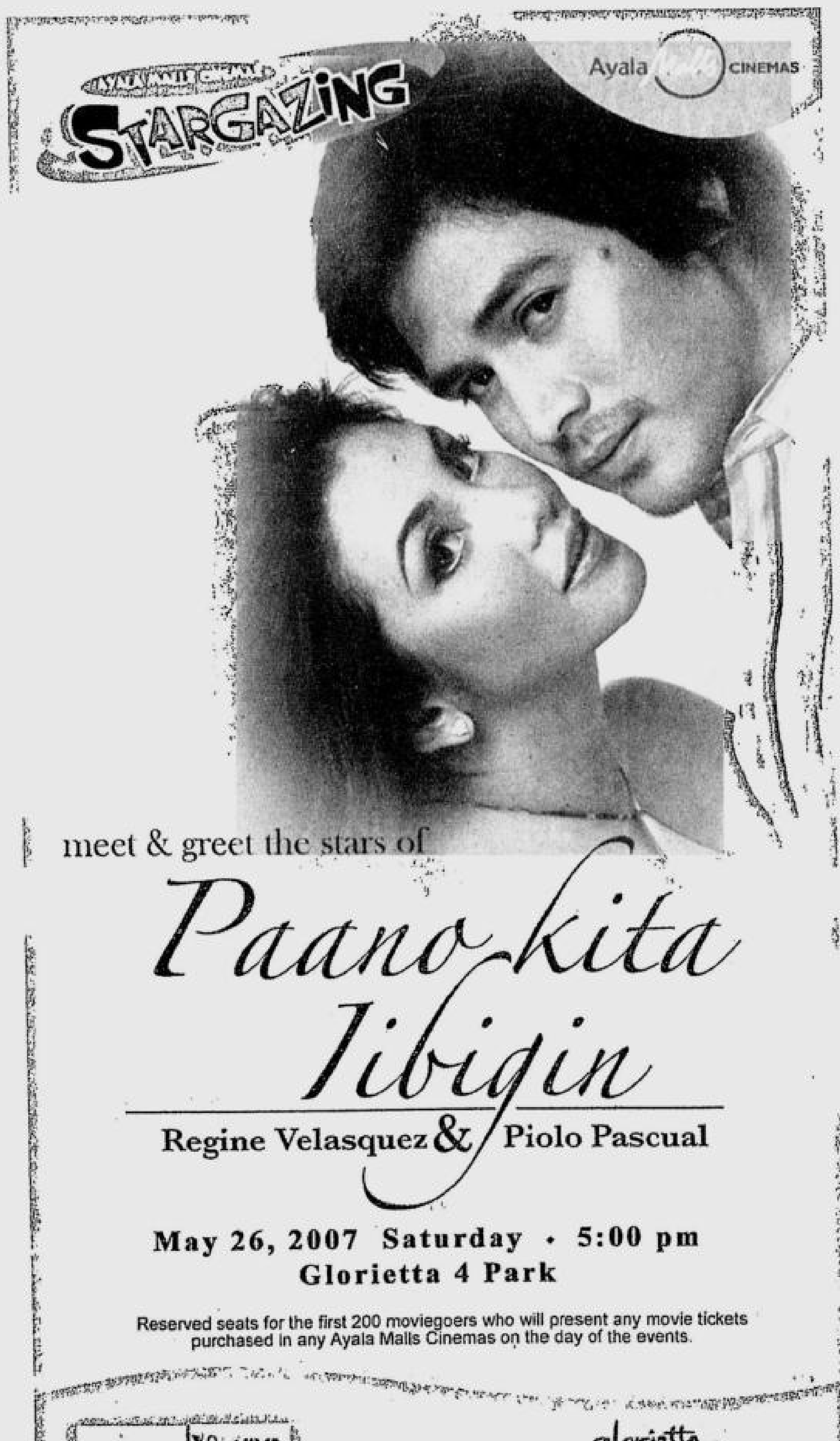
When their senators took a beating in opposition bailiwicks like Navotas, Makati and Pasay—and even in Quezon City—they remained composed and respectful of the counting.

On the other hand, when votes from administration-dominated areas naturally favored Team Unity candidates, the Genuine Opposition started acting like hysterical children crying fraud.

Frankly, the opposition's tactics lack class. They praise results when they are in favor of their team, and pronounce a failure of elections when the numbers support Team Unity.

And what's so irritating about the antics of GO is that they complain even when they're ahead of the counting.

If there are sore losers, then GO candidates are the sore winners.



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Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

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INVITATION TO BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested parties to submit sealed proposals for the sale of Seven (7) Motor Vehicles located at the GSIS Pasay City on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis to be conducted on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at 2:00 P.M. at the Physical Resources Lounge, Level I, Core B, New GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Pasay City.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MIN. BID
One (1)	Alfa Romeo, Mdl. 2002, Plate No. SFX-872, Gasoline Engine	GSIS Pasay City	P 623,700.00
One (1)	Alfa Romeo, Mdl. 2002, Plate No. SFX-882, Gasoline Engine	GSIS Pasay City	P 623,700.00
One (1)	Mitsubishi Pajero, Mdl. 1999 – Intercooler Turbo 1800, Plate No.SGY-376, Diesel Engine	GSIS Pasay City	P 807,300.00
One (1)	Toyota Corona, Mdl. 1992, Plate No. SEP-366	GSIS Pasay City	P 96,390.00
One (1)	Toyota Corona, Mdl. 1980, Plate No. SAS-952	GSIS Pasay City	P 20,412.00
One (1)	Nissan Urvan, Model 2000, Plate No. WKB-541	GSIS Pasay City	P 420,000.00
One (1)	Toyota Crown, Model 1993, Plate No. SEG-610	GSIS Pasay City	P 144,000.00

The above items may be inspected at the New GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City during office hours. For official Bid Forms and further inquiries, please refer to the Materials Management Department, GSIS, Financial Center, Pasay City at Telephone Number 891-62-95.

Sealed Bids shall be accompanied by refundable cash bid securities equivalent to 10% of the total amount of bid. Manager's, cashier's or certified checks shall be accepted as cash.

The GSIS/PRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect/s or informality of the bids received, to accept the bid most advantageous to the System, and does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of the GSIS/PRDC in this regard shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) JOSELITO T. SANTOS
Vice-President
Physical Resources Office

(PDI – May 26 & 27, 2007)

METRO-BRIEFS

Shabu bust

POLICE IN EASTERN Metro arrested five suspected peddlers of illegal drugs in separate operations in various parts of the city recently. The Mandaluyong City anti-illegal drug force arrested on Wednesday Ryan Comerciante, and Danilo Frisco, in a buy-bust operation in Barangay Hulo. PO2 George Gorgonia said a third suspect immediately fled the scene and evaded arrest. A packet of shabu was seized from the suspects. In Marikina City, police arrested three suspected shabu peddlers on Wednesday night. Idi Asin, Alihbon Diampuan, and Intan Balibago were nabbed during an operation in Rosal St. Sampaguita Village, Barangay Malanday. Police recovered three small packets of shabu from the suspects. *Kristine L. Alave*

Wave of xenophobia sweeping Europe, says rights watchdog

PARIS—EUROPE'S TRADITIONAL values of tolerance and welcome are giving way to a dangerous rise in hostility towards foreigners, the head of a pan-European rights commission warned on Thursday.

"We're starting to shut people out of our communities, it's a very sad development," Eva Smith-Asmussen, the Danish head of the Council of Europe's Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), told reporters in Paris.

"Europe is built on values like taking a humanitarian approach, tolerance," she told a press conference to mark the release of ECRI's 2006 annual report. "But it looks as if all of a sudden the most important thing is security, and other things have to be sacrificed."

"If anything is threatening our peace and security in Europe, it's discrimination," Smith-Asmussen said, warning of a "truly dangerous" trend.

In its report on the Council of Europe's 46 member states, ECRI found that "the overall picture as regards contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination is complex and worrying."

Across Europe, ECRI said it was "deeply concerned by the negative climate of opinion" which it said was "fueled by some media and also by the use of racist and xenophobic arguments in political discourse."

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are the most affected by the rise in hostility, according to ECRI.

It also warned of an "increasing climate of hostility" towards Muslims, cases of persistent anti-Semitism, and violations against Roma or gypsy populations, "singled out as a particular target for racism throughout Europe."

It said xenophobic discourse enjoyed a "free rein" in countries struggling to make the transition to multicultural societies, where foreigners were made scapegoats for economic difficulties and crime.

"On the subject of immigration, the tone of political debate has not only hardened considerably, but has also tended to stigmatize entire communities, notably foreigners," it said.

The fight against terrorism had in some cases led to the adoption of discriminatory legislation, it warned.

Calling on member states to combat discrimination on the ground, ECRI stressed that successful integration of minorities was "a two-way process, a process of mutual recognition, which has nothing to do with assimilation."

Smith-Asmussen said the trend towards greater discrimination had been observed "in every country in Europe, even in countries that used to be very open, forthcoming, like the Netherlands." *AFP*

STRIPED BABY
A baby Grevy's zebra (left), born on May 19 and named Johari, nuzzles up to his mother at the Cincinnati Zoo on May 24. The endangered Grevy's zebra is native to eastern Africa. AP

North Korea tags US, Japan, South Korea as greatest threats

RECLUSIVE NORTH KOREA HAS accused the US, Japan and South Korea of being Asia's biggest security threats and pledged to give up its nuclear weapons if they dismantle missiles aimed at it, according to a document seen by The Associated Press.

North Korea painted a bleak picture of Asia's security in the defense paper it presented for the first time to the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Regional Forum, but welcomed six-way talks aimed at denuclearizing the Korean peninsula as a crucial first step toward peace.

"The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is in essence not the question of unilateral disbandment of the (North Korean) nuclear program only," said the report, which was submitted to the forum but not made public. The AP saw it Thursday.

It said the denuclearization also depended on the removal "of more than one thousand nuclear weapons deployed in and around North Korea under the US nuclear umbrella and termination of the US hostile policy toward (North Korea) and its nuclear threat as well."

Christopher Hill, the chief US negotiator at the North Korean disarmament talks, said in Manila Friday that he has not seen Pyongyang's report but rejected its claims.

"Needless to say, I don't agree with that assertion," he told a news conference on the sidelines of the forum.

North Korea said it was forced to develop nuclear weapons—and tested one last year—because of Washington's threat of a pre-emptive nuclear strike, a plan it said was backed by Japan and South Korea.

"The DPRK had no other option but to possess nukes," the report said, using the abbreviation of the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Suicide attack on funeral in Iraq kills 27

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE GROWING confrontation between tribal leaders in Anbar Province and al-Qaida took a violent turn on Thursday when a suicide bomber drove into a crowd gathering for a funeral procession in the volatile city of Fallujah, killing at least 27 people and wounding dozens of others.

At breakfast time, masked gunmen assassinated a prominent Sunni tribal leader, Allawi al-Issawi, who had joined others across Anbar in opposing terrorist groups linked to al-Qaida. Less than three hours later, as mourners gathered for a funeral procession outside the tribal leader's home, the suicide bomber struck.

The Fallujah attack occurred on another day of widespread violence, much of it apparently committed by Sunni insurgent groups. Gunmen who set up a fake checkpoint at Hussainiya, on the northeastern outskirts of Baghdad, stopped a minibus and raked the Shiite passengers with gunfire, killing 11, including several women and children. The police said the attackers then left a bomb in the wreckage that exploded as rescuers arrived on the scene, killing two civilians and wounding several others.

Car bombings, suicide attacks, mortar volleys and ambushes killed at least 50 others. *NYT*

Majority in US favor changing immigration laws

AS OPPONENTS FROM THE right and left challenge an immigration bill before Congress, there is broad support among Americans—Democrats, Republicans and independents alike—for the major provisions in the legislation, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll.

Taking a pragmatic view on a divisive issue, a large majority of Americans want to change the immigration laws to allow illegal immigrants to gain legal status and to create a new guest worker program to meet future labor demands, the poll found.

At the same time, Americans have mixed feelings about whether the recent wave of immigration has been beneficial to the country, the survey found, and they are sharply divided over how open the United States should be to future immigrants.

Half of all Americans say they are ready to transform the process for selecting new immigrants as proposed in the bill, giving priority to job skills and education levels over family ties to the United States, which have been the foundation of the immigration system for four decades.

The nationwide telephone poll did not ask respondents about the immigration bill itself, but there were questions about its most significant provisions. It was conducted May 18 to 23 with 1,125 adults, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The bill, which is backed by President Bush and a bipartisan group of senators, would allow illegal immigrants who were in the United States before Jan. 1 of this year to obtain legal status by paying fines and passing background checks.

Two-thirds of those polled said illegal immigrants who have good employment histories and no criminal records should gain legal status as the bill proposes: by paying at least $5,000 in fines and fees and receiving a renewable four-year visa.

Most of those polled agreed that illegal immigrants should eventually be allowed to apply to become American citizens. But 59 percent said that former illegal immigrants should be considered for citizenship only after legal immigrants who have played by the rules. *NYT*

WORLDBRIEFS

US Congress approves Iraq war budget

WASHINGTON—The US Congress approved a multi-billion dollar Iraq war budget on Thursday, after bowing to US President George W. Bush's demands to rip out troop withdrawal timelines that prompted a previous veto. After a day of anguished debate reflecting sharp divisions over the unpopular war, the House of Representatives voted 280-142 to fund the war through September, and the Senate concurred by 80 votes to 14. The votes left many anti-war Democrats with a sour taste but acknowledging they lack the power to thwart Bush's war strategy, despite controlling Congress, and Republicans crowing they had beaten Democratic "surrender dates." When Bush signs the bill, he will end, temporarily at least, a bitter constitutional tug-of-war between Congress and the White House. *AFP*

S. Korea launches $1-B advanced destroyer

SEOUL—South Korea on Friday launched a destroyer, its first with an advanced weapons system for shooting down enemy missiles and aircraft, in a move to strengthen its defenses amid an arms build-up in the region. The destroyer named King Sejong was built in Ulsan at a cost of about 1 trillion won ($1.07 billion) and will be the country's most advanced ship to counter a possible attack from North Korea, which has hundreds of ballistic missiles. The ship, with the high-tech Aegis weapons system, can carry 16 ship-to-ship missiles, 128 ship-to-air missiles as well as cruise missiles and torpedoes, the Defense Ministry said. *Reuters*

PM Ahern's party in pole position in Ireland election

DUBLIN, IRELAND—The long-dominant Fianna Fail party of Prime Minister Bertie Ahern has received the most votes of any party, potentially enough to retain power in Ireland, according to exit poll data released on Friday by national broadcasters RTE. The survey—providing the first hard figures from Thursday's national election for the Dail Eireann parliament—put Fianna Fail on 41.6 percent, almost exactly the same support it received when Ahern returned to power following the 2002 election. Ahern's major opposition rival, Fine Gael, received 26.3 percent among those polled, up nearly 4 points from 2002. The left-wing Labor Party, which was aiming to hold the balance of power and has a formal alliance with Fine Gael, received 9.9 percent, down 1 point. Fianna Fail's longstanding partner in coalition government, the Progressive Democrats, had 2.6 percent, down 1.4 points. The Green Party had 4.8 percent, up 1 point; Sinn Fein 7.3 percent, up less than a point; and independents 7.5 percent, down 3.6 points. *AP*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Program Management Office

NOTICE OF HIRING

The Supreme Court is in need of the following to be hired on Contractual basis for the Ad Hoc Inventory Unit of the Office on Halls of Justice.

POSITION-TITLE One (1) LAWYER
(P22,823.00/month)

QUALIFICATIONS
Education • Bachelor of Laws
Experience • Must be a member of the bar for at least three (3) years;

Other Requirements:
- Practice in the field of land titling preferred;
- Computer literate, highly motivated, detail and team-oriented; ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment; and possess superior communication and organizational skills

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES :
- Act as Team Leader of the Ad Hoc Inventory Unit
- Serve in a full-time capacity and shall report directly to the Officer-in-Charge of the Office on Halls of Justice
- Coordinate different activities needed to generate information and physical data from all HOJs and courts not housed in HOJs
- Prepare Monthly Report and regularly report to the Chairperson of the Oversight Committee on Halls of Justice
- Preside at all meetings between and among the Ad Hoc Inventory Unit and the designated heads/representatives of the Maintenance Units of the concerned Halls of Justice and other agencies
- Direct, coordinate and supervise the activities of the various personnel of the Ad Hoc Inventory Unit
- Review all documents and formulate the necessary plan of action in order that the appropriate land ownership documents shall be issued in favor of the Supreme Court
- Analyze all data gathered in the field, with the assistance of the Architect, Civil Engineer and the draftsman, and prepare appropriate reports.

POSITION-TITLE One (1) ARCHITECT
(P18,792.00/month)

QUALIFICATIONS
Education • Degree in Architecture
Experience • At least three (3) years of work experience in design and planning in architectural, engineering or related industry;
Eligibility • RA 1080

Other Requirements:
- Computer literate (including MS excel, Autocadd and word processing), highly motivated, detail and team-oriented;
- Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment;
- Possess above average communication and organizational skills

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Act as Assistant Team Leader of the Ad Hoc Inventory Unit and shall be the primary technical personnel of the Unit;
- Serve in a full-time capacity and shall report directly to the Team Leader;
- Coordinate with the concerned HOJ Maintenance Units prior to ocular/site inspection and seek advise on the physical conditions as part of the initial survey;
- Obtain the necessary information from the different HOJs to determine the requirements for land ownership;
- Seek available details of the physical conditions of facilities in order that necessary documents (i.e., initial costing, as-built plans, etc.) may be prepared for its construction, renovation and/or rehabilitation;
- Assist in the review of technical documents prepared by the HOJ Maintenance staff regarding the physical conditions of the concerned HOJs;
- Analyze all technical data gathered in the field, and prepare appropriate report;
- Provide guidance on the systematic recording of data and/or theoretical calculations;
- Keep and maintain a clear record of all data/information that have been collected and activities that have been undertaken

POSITION-TITLE One (1) DRAFTSMAN
(P10,709.00/month)

QUALIFICATIONS
Education • Degree in Engineering or Architecture or any related field
Experience • At least three (3) years work experience in architectural, engineering or related industry with working knowledge in computer-aided drafting techniques and methodologies

Other Requirements:
- More than average computer skills (Autocadd, data entry and scanning), highly motivated, detail and team-oriented
- Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment
- Possess good communication and organizational skills

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Act as technical personnel in the Ad Hoc Inventory Unit;
- Serve in a full-time capacity and shall report to the Team Leader;
- Coordinate with the Maintenance Unit of concerned HOJs prior to ocular inspection to seek advise on initial physical condition and other information necessary for the actual preparation of the building plans;
- Analyze information gathered from the field and assist in the development of appropriate documents for the construction, rehabilitation and/or renovation of the different HOJs;
- Assist the Architect in all data gathering activities, information analysis, and data consolidation to produce the consolidated report on all HOJs;
- Maintain a systematic recording of all data/information or other theoretical calculations.

POSITION-TITLE One (1) DATA ENCODER
(P9,606.00/month)

QUALIFICATIONS
Education • Bachelor's degree in any field
Experience • At least five (5) years in data encoding experience

Other Requirements :
- More than average computer skills including word processing, spread sheet data entry and scanning;
- Must be highly motivated, detail and team-oriented;
- Ability to perform general clerical and administrative duties;
- Ability to perform multi-tasking in a fast-paced environment;
- Possess good verbal and written communication skills.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES :
- Record the minutes of all meetings attended by the Team Leader and maintain the same for information and ready reference;
- Assist the technical personnel as needed, and act as messenger/carrier when directed;
- Maintain a systematic record of data or other theoretical calculations and a clear record of all collected information from the field for proper handling and storage;
- Perform other delegated duties as assigned.

Interested and qualified applicants may submit their application letters with their comprehensive resume (include at least three references), Official Transcript of Record, and other credentials addressed to:

Ms. Evelyn Toledo-Dumdum
Judicial Reform Program Administrator
Program Management Office
6th floor, Centennial Building
Supreme Court of the Philippines
cor. Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila

Applications may also be sent thru fax at +632 5529586

For more inquiries, please call Ms. Lisa Sales at +632 5529578 to 88

Fighting erupts anew in Lebanon

NAHR AL-BARED, LEBANON—FIGHTING ERUPTED ANEW ON Thursday night between Islamist guerrillas entrenched in a Palestinian refugee camp and Lebanese troops besieging them, ending a tenuous truce in a battle that has already seen at least 69 people killed.

An Army spokesperson said shooting erupted from inside the Nahr el-Bared camp, near the northern city of Tripoli, at about 8:30 p.m. and that government forces returned fire.

Local television showed images of artillery fire followed by the sound of explosions, interspersed by the report of small-arms fire, and said the exchanges lasted for about 15 minutes.

Tensions mounted during the day after Lebanese leaders vowed to crush the Islamists, and the Army later warned that it would not stand idle if the militants broke a ceasefire they themselves had declared on Tuesday.

"We will put an end to the terrorist phenomenon without hesitation," Prime Minister Fuad Siniora said after his defense minister issued an ultimatum for the militants to surrender or face another attack.

Later in the day, an Army statement said, "we hold Fatah al-Islam responsible for everything that ... might take place if it resumes attacks on our positions and continues to use Palestinian civilians as human shields.

Defense Minister Elias Murr flatly ruled out negotiations to end the standoff, raising speculation of a new battle in the deadliest internal fighting since the 1975-1990 civil war.

"The Army will not negotiate with Fatah al-Islam, which has two choices: either surrender or the Army will take the military option," he said on Wednesday night.

The al-Qaida-inspired Sunni militia said it would abide by the ceasefire it declared but was ready to fight again.

"We respect the truce, but we will not surrender. If we are attacked, we will fight until the last drop of blood," spokesperson Abu Salim told AFP.

Thousands of refugees are crowded into makeshift housing in northern Lebanon after taking advantage of Tuesday's ceasefire to flee Nahr al-Bared, the epicenter of a three-day battle that left shrapnel-scarred houses, rubble-strewn streets and burnt out hulks of cars.

Women carrying children, and men with a few belongings, continued to trudge out of the camp under the watchful eyes of soldiers posted outside, fully armed and wearing flak jackets and helmets.

The troops were conducting thorough searches in an apparent effort to prevent militants escaping or weapons being smuggled, even checking bags carried by children.

Tanks were deployed on promontories overlooking the camp, while armored personnel carriers and jeeps, some mounted with machine guns, were deployed on the main roads and in nearby fields and citrus groves.

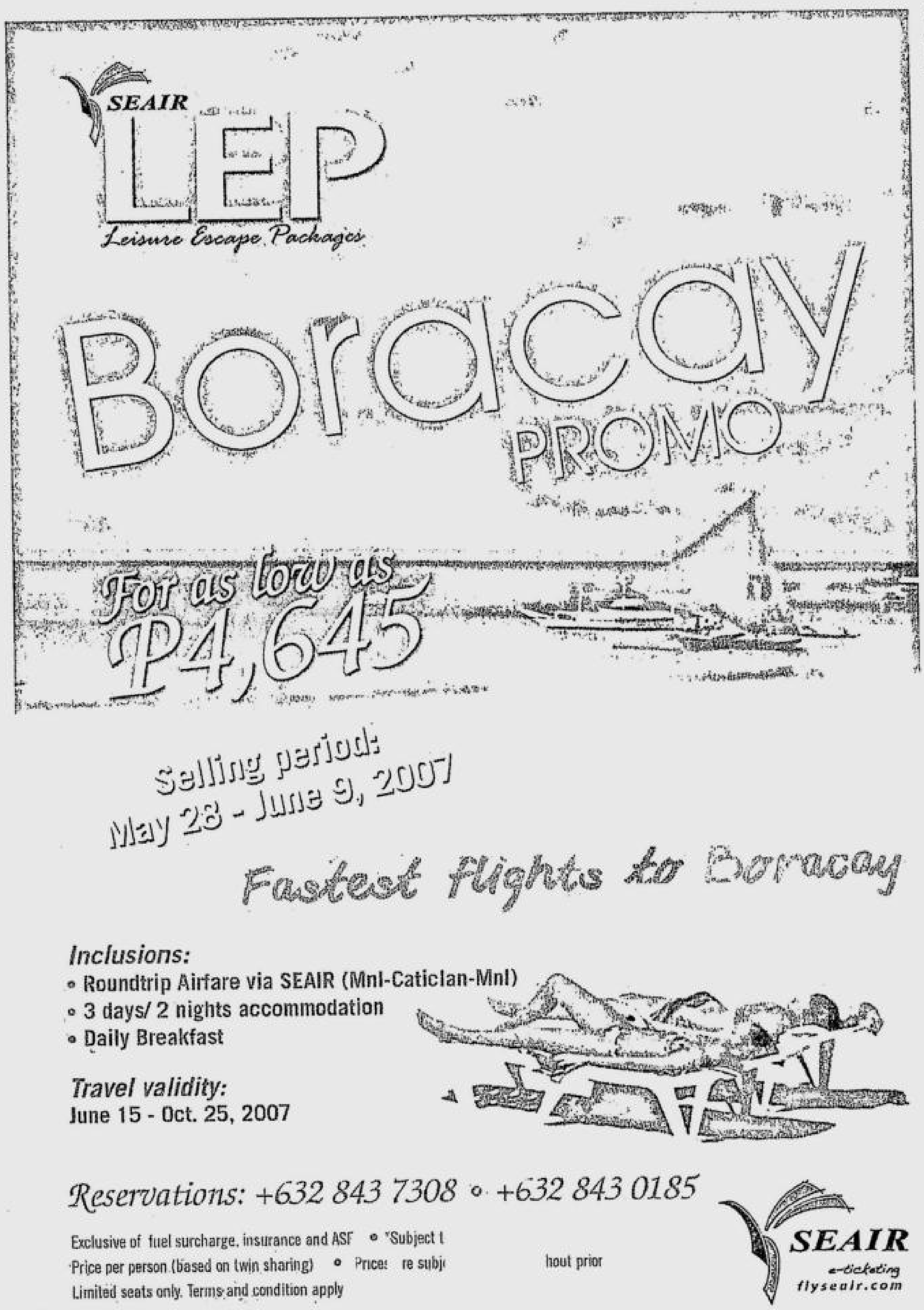
Thousands of other people—wounded, ill, too frightened or too obstinate to leave—waited nervously inside for a possible new outbreak of fighting.

Jakob Kellenberger of the International Committee of the Red Cross said about half of the residents had fled, and that "we are extremely concerned about the security of some 20,000 civilians who remain inside the camp.

He said clean water supply had now stopped after the water system was damaged, and that power supplies were also down.

At least 69 people, including 30 soldiers, 19 refugees, 19 militants and one Lebanese civilian, have been confirmed killed, but Murr said between 50 and 60 Fatah al-Islam fighters alone had lost their lives.

AFP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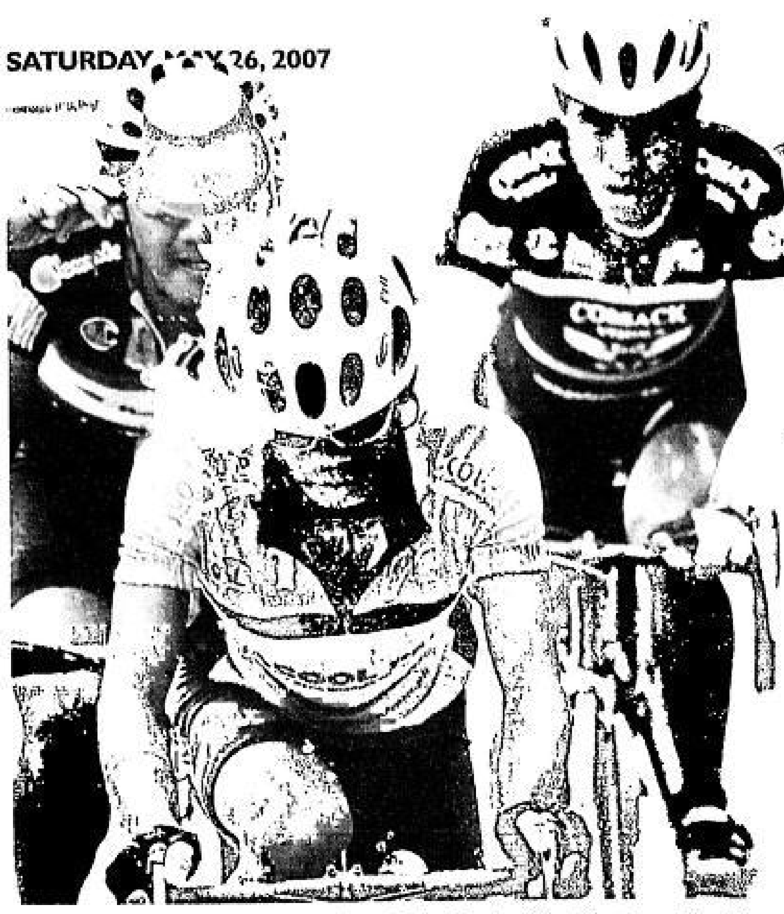
■ **Sharapova** barges into Istanbul s'finals /A23



BAGUIO-TO-BAGUIO stage winner Baler Ravina (front) gets a refreshing douse along Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet. INQUIRER PHOTO/BOY CABRIDO

'Bikathon over; Victor is king'

By Musong R. Castillo

BAGUIO CITY—BALER RAVINA LOST HIS dentures in the climb through Kennon Road but nonetheless captured the crucial lap as he had promised.

Then, in all his toothless glory, the lap winner proclaimed Victor Espiritu the 2007 Tanduay Padkay Pinoy bikathon king.

The ever-smiling Ravina rode with all his might to win a most-cherished stage in this summer cycling classic, reluctantly settling for the second best thing after he failed to shake off Espiritu all day in the punishing Baguio-to-Baguio eighth stage.

"*Tapos na yan. Si* Victor *na ang* champion. (This is over. Victor is the new champion)," said Ravina, whose dentures fell off when he tried to pop open his water jug in front of the landmark Lion's Head. "*Okey na sa akin ito, nakakuha na ako ng* lap (I'm satisfied with winning a lap)."

Espiritu checked in a close fourth, sharing Ravina's winning time of 5 hours, 57 minutes and 55.60 seconds as he retained the yellow jersey of leadership with a 29-second lead over the lap winner after the torturous 195-kilometer trip up-and-down this chilly summer capital.

And that advantage, Ravina stressed, would be enough for Espiritu to win his second Tour title counting the one he won as a rookie in 1996 over such greats as Carlo Guieb, Renato Dolosa and Gerardo Igos.

Ravina actually won out in a photo finish over Santy Barnachea, last year's champion.

Irish Valenzuela was third and the trio man-

BIKATHON/ A22

Dragons survive; Kings prevail

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—THE WELCOAT DRAGONS woke up from deep slumber just in time to survive the claws of the Coca-Cola Tigers, 86-80, and keep their bid for a wildcard slot last night in the Talk N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Rob Wainwright sizzled from the arc after nailing all of his five three-pointers, four of them coming in the fourth, to help the Dragons overcome a 52-65 deficit three-fourths of the way.

Alex Compton also pinched in, burying back-to-back long-range jumpers that capped an 11-0 assault and gave the Dragons a taste of the lead for the first time, 71-70, since engaging the Tigers in a see-saw battle in the first half.

Compton tossed in 21 points and Wainwright added 19 points and eight rebounds for the Dragons, who refused to end their season by notching a fourth win in 17 games.

GAME TODAY
(*Bacolod City*)
6 p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Talk N Text
7:10 p.m.—SM Beer vs Barangay Ginebra

A defeat could have shown the door for the Dragons since losing another would prevent coach Leo Austria and his wards from securing a fifth win after the classification phase.

Once the Dragons force a tie with either the Purefoods Giants (5-10) or the Sta. Lucia Realtors (5-11), the Welbest franchise could forge a playoff for the last wildcard seat.

"We don't want to pressure ourselves by thinking about it (wildcard phase)," said Austria. "We just played our hearts out and hope that something good will come out of it."

True enough, the Dragons dismissed the specter of early elimination by focusing more on the defensive end after shifting to a zone in the final quarter.

In the second game, Rod Nealy proved steadier than his Sta. Lucia Realty counterpart as Barangay Ginebra gained a share of the lead with an 88-84 victory.

Nealy banged in 14 of his game-high 38 points in the final period to put a stop on the Realtors' momentum down the stretch while helping his Gin Kings snap a three-game losing skid.

With the triumph, the Gin Kings now share the leadership with Alaska and Red Bull, which also have 11-5 win-loss records.

The Ginebra victory also tightened the race for the top two spots, which will advance to semifinals outright before the playoffs.

For the Realtors, their 11th loss in 16 games will help determine their seeding in the wildcard playoffs where there will be one survivor.

The scores:

WELCOAT 86—Compton 21, Wainwright 19, White 12, Baguion 12, Reyes 12, Sta. Maria 6, Gelig 4, Cabatu 0, Lao 0

COCA-COLA 80—Varem 27, Cabagnot 10, Calimag 10, Peek 9, Duremdes 7, Arigo 7, Antonio 7, Avenido 3, Misolas 0, Tolomia 0

Quarters: 20-20, 37-39, 52-62, 86-80

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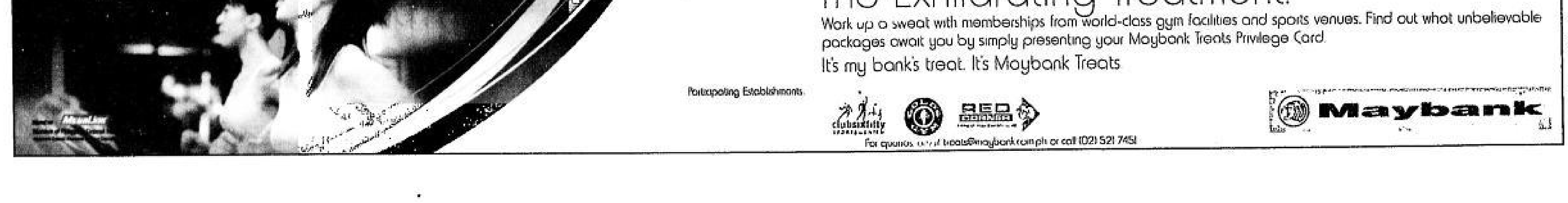

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
TREND MICRO INCORPORATED 15/F IBM Plaza Bldg., # 8 Eastwood Ave., Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Jie Li	Anti Threat Engineer
COSMO MEDICAL INC. Lot 64-A Celery Rd., FTI Complex, Taguig City	Paul Byong Sang	Human Resources Manager
K.S. BRAR-WRING CREDIT RESOURCES & TRADING CO. 440 Leyva St., Old Zaniga, Mandaluyong City	Lakhwinder Kaur	Manager
SANTILLAN-TURPAULT, INC. (DUAL ACTION BLENDER) G/F Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea San Lorenzo Vill., Makati City	Isabelle Jeannine Christina Turpault	President
KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Sang Geun Park	Manager, Technical Group
MISYS INTERNATIONAL BANKING SYSTEMS INC. 10/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City	Arthur Stewart Conn	Design Analyst
WADDAGE CORP. Rm. 410 Peninsula Court, Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Benjamin Alexander Bradley	Creative Consultant
PCSTRONG TRADING Pasilio A-03 A-04 Wang Wang Shopping Ctr., H.K. Sun Plaza, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Yushuang Chen	Sales Representative
PCSTRONG TRADING Pasilio A-03 A-04 Wang Wang Shopping Ctr., H.K. Sun Plaza, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Yujian Chen	Assistant Manager
PCSTRONG TRADING Pasilio A-03 A-04 Wang Wang Shopping Ctr., H.K. Sun Plaza, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Canming Chen	Technician
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.- PHIL. CUSTOMER CARE CENTER 31/F Philamlife Tower, Makati City	Matthew Aaron Peterson	Subject Matter Expert
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.- PHIL. CUSTOMER CARE CENTER 31/F Philamlife Tower, Makati City	Joseph Michael D' Urzo	Subject Matter Expert
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.- PHIL. CUSTOMER CARE CENTER 31/F Philamlife Tower, Makati City	Harry M. La Salvia	Subject Matter Expert
L'OPERA INC. The Fort Entertainment Complex, 26th St., cor 5th Ave., Global City, Taguig	Moreno Mattei	Executive Chef
PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE BRIDGE BUSINESS INC. Unit W-2305B, West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Toshio Kudo	Vice-President
PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE BRIDGE BUSINESS INC. Unit W-2305B, West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Koji Masuda	General Manager
PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE BRIDGE BUSINESS INC. Unit W-2305B, West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Hiroshi Yokoo	Senior Engineering Manager
PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE BRIDGE BUSINESS INC. Unit W-2305B, West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Takayuki Watanabe	Engineering Supervisor for Software Development
PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE BRIDGE BUSINESS INC. Unit W-2305B, West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Yoshiyuki Hara	Assistant Engineering Director
PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE BRIDGE BUSINESS INC. Unit W-2305B, West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Hiroki Matsuo	Assistant Manager for Software Development
PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE BRIDGE BUSINESS INC. Unit W-2305B, West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Koichi Saito	Engineering Manager
TORRENT PHARMA PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 401-CITC Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Sanjay Singh	Business Development Manager
HI PHILIPPINES TRAVEL AGENCY, INC. U-2005 World Trade Exchange Ctr., 215 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Sun Tae Kim	General Manager
INTELLIGENT WAVE PHILIPPINES, INC. U904-907, Phil AXA Life Center, 1286 Buendia cor. Tindalo St., Makati City	Xuesong Tan	Software Engineer
FILACE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CORP. 7 Amber Square, Escriva Drive, Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Kisik Yoon	Chief Executive Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - May 26, 2007)

'Bikathon over; Victor is king'

From page A21

aged to eat up on Espiritu's overnight lead through the bonus given to the stage winners—10 seconds for first, six and four, respectively, for the next two.

Espiritu also tried hard to win the crucial stage, but he miscalculated a slippery turn after the final descent heading into the rain-lashed finish at crowded Burnham Park.

"*Hindi ko inisip na umatake, binantayan ko lang yung mga dapat kong bantayan kasi lamang naman ako* (I didn't see the need to pad my lead. I just tried to keep my pursuers close)," said the 31-year-old Espiritu.

Barring any major mishaps in the final two stages, Espiritu would become the eighth man to win the fabled summer odyssey on wheels twice after Guieb, Dolosa, the late Jacinto Sicam, Cornelio Padilla, Manuel Reynante, Warren Davadilla and Jose Sumalde.

Sumalde, Padilla, Guieb and Sicam won theirs in rare back-to-back fashion.

The Baguio leg took its toll on three riders, who were all taken to the nearby Baguio General Hospital after suffering injuries.

Sherwin Carrera paid the biggest price and sustained the biggest blow in his bid for a respectable finish.

Winner of the Laoag-to-San Fernando, La Union lap, Carrera rammed into a truck in the final 15 km, his P280,000 bike almost broken in half and his chances of landing a Top 10 finish all but gone. He set out for the day in eighth spot.

Norman Pablo ran over a stray dog at Pugo junction and lost control, while Roberto Rodriguez quit less than an hour into the race.

Valenzuela, last year's top rookie, remained in third spot, 1:39 behind Espiritu.

Barnachea bumped off Lloyd Reynante from fourth spot, and is now 2:46 behind.

Reynante, the winner of the San Fernando, La Union-to-Baguio lap on Thursday, didn't have the legs to stage a breakaway like he did the day before. He is now at fifth after he also encountered mechanical trouble in the final 10 kilometers.

The remaining 90 riders descend to Pampanga today for another 195-kilometer ride that concludes at Clark Field in Angeles City. The event winds up tomorrow with an anticlimactic 90-km criterium race along Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

STAGE 8: Baguio City to Baguio City

STAGE INDIVIDUAL
1. B. Ravina (Cool Pap) 5:57:55.60
2. S. Barnachea (Champion) 5:57:55.60
3. I. Valenzuela (Cossack Vodka) 5:57:55.60
4. V. Espiritu (Wow Magic Sing) 5:57:55.60
5. E. Obosa (Bacchus) 5:58:58.45
6. M. Ramos (U-Freight) 5:58:58.45
7. S. Salvador (Cargohaus) 5:59:31.76
8. L. Reynante (Air21) 6:00:09.63
9. R. Sambrano (Cossack Vodka) 6:00:44.07
10. J. Ricafort (Wow Magic Sing) 6:01:28.08
11. H. Sicam (Wow Magic Sing) 6:01:28.08
12. R. Hualda (Wow Magic Sing) 6:01:28.08
13. J. Calderon (Caltex) 6:01:28.08
14. M. David (Vellum) 6:02:56.77
15. C. Nadyahan (Caltex) 6:03:10.06
16. R. Martin (Vellum) 6:03:32.14

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL
1. V. Espiritu (Wow Magic Sing) 27:06:42.121
2. B. Ravina (Cool Pap) 27:07:12.032
3. I. Valenzuela (Cossack Vodka) 27:08:21.593
4. S. Barnachea (Champion) 27:09:28.184
5. L. Reynante (Air21) 27:10:43.125
6. M. Ramos (U-Freight) 27:11:25.022
7. R. Sambrano (Cossack Vodka) 27:13:04.383
8. J. Calderon (Caltex) 27:17:37.333
9. E. Obosa (Bacchus) 27:25:32.651
10. H. Sicam (Wow Magic Sing) 27:27:22.305
11. D. Hardin (Caltex) 27:28:24.946
12. A. Quirimit (Mail & More) 27:30:21.636
13. C. Nadyahan (Caltex) 27:31:35.777
14. A. Benosa (U-Freight) 27:33:10.927
15. R. Hualda (Wow Magic Sing) 27:33:22.882
16. E. Baltazar 27:37:58.223

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS
1. Wow Magic Sing 111 hours, 3 minutes, 22.443 seconds
2. Cossack Vodka 111:04:48.145
3. Caltex 111:10:49.445
4. Cool Pap 111:11:50.906
5. Vellum 111:26:07.911
6. Champion 111:29:56.155
7. Air21 112:01:10.314
8. Mail & More 112:09:21.499
9. U-Freight 112:11:58.619
10. Bacchus 112:30:06.487
11. Cargohaus 113:05:16.550
12. Vis-Min Team Selection 115:15:37.152

LPC 3-cocker set tomorrow

SIXTY OR MORE FIGHTS are on tap in a special 3-cock derby tomorrow at the Las Pinas Coliseum. Host Marlon de Castro expects at least 40 entries to dispute the cash prize of P300,000. Submission of entries is on derby day, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 874-3910 or 0926-7450375. The "Sunday Hackfight Concierto" also sizzles tomorrow from 8 a.m.

Entry weights submission set

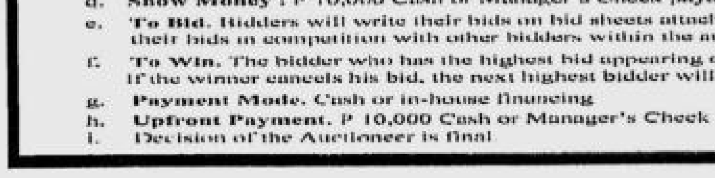
THE SUBMISSION OF official entries for the Makati Invitational 8-Cock Derby on May 28, 30 and June 1 will be accepted tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum. The three-day battle among local and international cockers stakes a guaranteed prize of P3 million for an entry fee of P33,000. The derby is backed by sponsors B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador.

PSBank

THE GRAND GARAGE AUCTION SALE
ALL UNITS MUST GO!!!

Pre Auction: May 26 to June 1, 2007
Auction day: June 2, 2007 at 1:00pm
Venue: Paco - Penafrancia Ext. Paco, Manila
Cebu - HVG Arcade Subangdaku, Mandaue City

MAKE/MODEL	PLATE NO.	REGULAR PRICE	AUCTION PRICE	KNOCK OUT PRICE
MANILA				
CHEVROLET				
1 05 CHEVROLET OPTRA LS A/T	ZAE-220	520,000	468,000	491,400
2 04 CHEVROLET OPTRA LS M/T	XRG-188	360,000	306,000	336,600
3 06 CHEVROLET OPTRA LS WAGON A/T	ZEM-697	650,000	552,500	607,750
4 05 CHEVROLET VENTURE A/T	XTD-821	920,000	690,000	759,000
5 05 CHEVROLET OPTRA LT A/T	XTD-978	600,000	450,000	495,000
6 05 CHEVROLET OPTRA LT A/T	ZAZ-748	550,000	412,500	453,750
7 04 CHEVROLET OPTRA LS A/T	XRT-148	360,000	324,000	340,200
FORD				
8 04 FORD EVEREST DSL A/T	YBP 369	680,000	612,000	642,600
9 05 FORD FOCUS A/T	ZDB-114	750,000	675,000	708,750
10 05 FORD LYNX GSI A/T	XRV-321	450,000	405,000	425,250
11 05 FORD LYNX GSI M/T	XTP-565	400,000	340,000	374,000
12 05 FORD LYNX GHIA A/T	ZAV-831	450,000	382,500	420,750
13 04 FORD LYNX LSI M/T	XMZ-223	360,000	270,000	297,000
14 03 FORD EXPLORER A/T	XMG-169	680,000	510,000	561,000
HONDA				
15 04 HONDA ACCORD VTI A/T	XPX-914	700,000	630,000	661,500
16 03 HONDA CITY M/T	XMM-834	370,000	277,500	305,250
HYUNDAI				
17 04 HYUNDAI STAREX SVX M/T	XNF-623	640,000	480,000	528,000
18 05 HYUNDAI MATRIX M/T	ZAV-998	400,000	340,000	374,000
19 04 HYUNDAI MATRIX GL M/T	RBD-268	380,000	342,000	359,100
ISUZU				
20 05 ISUZU SPORTIVO M/T	ZAY-605	780,000	702,000	737,100
21 04 ISUZU CROSSWIND XUV M/T	XRH-274	600,000	540,000	567,000
22 04 ISUZU CROSSWIND XT M/T	XRU-618	480,000	432,000	453,600
KIA				
23 06 KIA KC2700 PANORAMIC M/T	VDV-649	580,000	522,000	548,100
24 05 KIA PICANTO A/T	VCM-537	320,000	288,000	302,400
25 05 KIA PREGIO GS FESTIVAL M/T	ZAB-120	450,000	337,500	371,250
26 05 KIA KC2700 PANORAMIC M/T	ZAF-570	610,00	457,500	503,250
MERCEDES				
27 96 MERCEDES BENZ 100 M/T	DRL-523	150,000	127,500	140,250
MITSUBISHI				
28 05 MITSUBISHI PAJERO GLS A/T	XSW-890	2,100,000	1,785,000	1,963,500
29 04 MITSUBISHI L400 SPACEGEAR M/T	RBE-143	700,000	525,000	577,500
30 04 MITSUBISHI L400 SPACEGEAR A/T	XSN-279	670,000	502,500	552,750
31 04 MITSUBISHI L400 SPACEGEAR A/T	VCU-445	550,000	412,500	453,750
32 06 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLS SPORT GAS A/T	NO PLATE	620,000	465,000	511,500
33 05 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GL DSL M/T	ZAR-855	530,000	397,500	437,250
34 05 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLS SPORT DSL M/T	VCM-525	500,000	450,000	472,500
35 05 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX DSL M/T	XTG-323	500,000	450,000	472,500
36 05 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX DSL M/T	RCF-297	250,000	225,000	236,250
37 05 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX DSL M/T	AEN-722	490,000	367,500	404,250
38 05 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX DSL M/T	VCM-603	480,000	408,000	448,800
39 03 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GS GAS A/T	XLV-131	500,000	450,000	472,500
40 03 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE SS GAS M/T	XLV-276	480,000	408,000	448,800
42 02 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX GAS M/T	XFW-982	420,000	315,000	346,500
43 02 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX GAS M/T	XGR-713	350,000	262,500	288,750
44 05 MITSUBISHI LANCER GLX M/T	ZAM-420	480,000	432,000	453,600
45 00 MITSUBISHI LANCER GSR A/T	MCL-390	290,000	261,000	274,050
46 06 MITSUBISHI L300 VV DSL M/T	VDM-442	580,000	493,000	542,300
47 06 MITSUBISHI L300 VV DSL M/T	RDN-142	600,000	510,000	561,000
48 05 MITSUBISHI L300 VV DSL M/T	ZBX-371	420,000	378,000	396,900
49 05 MITSUBISHI L300 VV DSL M/T	RDG-708	520,000	442,000	486,200
50 03 MITSUBISHI L300 FB VAN DSL M/T	XNM-453	300,000	255,000	280,500
51 05 MITSUBISHI L200 STRADA DSL A/T	AES-117	720,000	540,000	594,000
52 03 MITSUBISHI L200 STRADA DSL A/T	OHS-888	640,000	544,000	598,400
53 03 MITSUBISHI L200 STRADA DSL M/T	VDB-222	770,000	577,500	635,250
NISSAN				
54 06 NISSAN CEFIRO 300 EX A/T	ZDY-332	1,350,000	1,147,500	1,262,250
55 06 NISSAN SENTRA GS A/T	ZEP-835	600,000	540,000	567,000
56 06 NISSAN SENTRA GSX A/T	ZDU-206	520,000	468,000	491,400
57 06 NISSAN SENTRA GSX A/T	ZEF-338	500,000	450,000	472,500
58 06 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	ZDV-286	600,000	450,000	495,000
59 05 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	XTF-399	420,000	357,000	392,700
60 05 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	XTH-518	460,000	345,000	379,500
61 05 NISSAN SENTRA GS A/T	XTV-776	520,000	390,000	429,000
62 05 NISSAN SENTRA GS A/T	XRM-372	480,000	408,000	448,800
63 05 NISSAN SENTRA GT A/T	XTV-598	550,000	412,500	453,750
64 05 NISSAN SENTRA GT A/T	ZAH-457	590,000	442,500	486,750
65 05 NISSAN SENTRA GX M/T	XTM-532	380,000	342,000	359,100
66 04 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	XPT-980	380,000	285,000	313,500
67 04 NISSAN SENTRA GT A/T	XKE-499	520,000	390,000	429,000
68 95 NISSAN SENTRA (TAXI)	NYY-803	60,000	45,000	49,500
69 06 NISSAN URVAN SHUTTLE DSL M/T	ZCY-260	750,000	675,000	708,750
70 06 NISSAN URVAN SHUTTLE DSL M/T	ZFJ-877	880,000	792,000	831,600
71 06 NISSAN URVAN SHUTTLE DSL M/T	ZED-964	850,000	722,500	794,750
72 06 NISSAN URVAN ESCAPADE DSL M/T	ZGC-118	850,000	765,000	803,250
73 05 NISSAN URVAN SHUTTLE DSL M/T	XSY-704	650,000	487,500	536,250
74 05 NISSAN URVAN SHUTTLE DSL M/T	ZAW-507	780,000	585,000	643,500
75 05 NISSAN URVAN SHUTTLE DSL M/T	XTK-870	720,000	612,000	673,200
76 05 NISSAN URVAN ESCAPADE DSL M/T	XRM-399	650,000	585,000	614,250
77 02 NISSAN SERENA QRVU GAS M/T	XJJ-150	440,000	330,000	363,000
78 05 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL M/T	ZAS-533	680,000	612,000	642,600
79 05 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL M/T	XTR-723	630,000	535,500	589,050
80 06 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	ZDF-138	900,000	675,000	742,500
81 05 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	ZCD-921	850,000	722,500	794,750
82 04 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	XND-195	750,000	562,500	618,750
83 04 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	XRW-839	750,000	637,500	701,250
84 04 NISSAN X-TRAIL A/T	XNZ-138	720,000	540,000	594,000
OPEL				
85 03 OPEL ASTRA WAGON A/T	XHL-819	370,000	277,500	305,250
86 00 OPEL ASTRA WAGON A/T	WMK-827	280,000	210,000	231,000
SUZUKI				
87 05 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA A/T	ZAW-918	900,000	675,000	742,500
88 06 SUZUKI APV GLX A/T	ZEA-383	620,000	527,000	579,700
89 05 SUZUKI APV GLX A/T	RBP-648	540,000	459,000	504,900
TOYOTA				
90 97 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER PRADO A/T	LTM-707	900,000	765,000	841,500
91 05 TOYOTA INNOVA G GAS A/T	ZBM-117	785,000	667,250	733,975
92 05 TOYOTA INNOVA G DSL A/T	ZBT-895	690,000	621,000	652,050
93 05 TOYOTA INNOVA E DSL M/T	ZAD-644	720,000	648,000	680,400
94 05 TOYOTA INNOVA J GAS M/T	ZCK-358	640,000	480,000	528,000
95 05 TOYOTA INNOVA J DSL A/T	ZAY-379	680,000	578,000	635,800
96 05 TOYOTA REVO DLX GAS M/T	KDB-523	450,000	337,500	371,250
97 04 TOYOTA REVO GLX GAS A/T	XPJ-340	450,000	382,500	420,750
98 03 TOYOTA REVO VX200 M/T	XKV-993	490,000	367,500	404,250
99 02 TOYOTA REVO SR GAS A/T	XHG-929	380,000	285,000	313,500
100 01 TOYOTA REVO SR GAS M/T	WPU-509	365,000	328,500	344,925
101 94 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX	TTV-464	25,000	18,750	20,625
102 03 TOYOTA COROLLA ALTIS 1.6J A/T	XJK-253	390,000	331,500	364,650
103 03 TOYOTA COROLLA ALTIS	XKV-844	370,000	314,500	345,950
104 06 TOYOTA VIOS 1.3E M/T	VDV-156	480,000	408,000	448,800
105 06 TOYOTA VIOS 1.3E	ZFN-843	480,000	432,000	453,600
106 03 TOYOTA VIOS 1.5G M/T	XMY-214	400,000	340,000	374,000
107 03 TOYOTA VIOS 1.5G M/T	VCN-837	380,000	285,000	313,500
108 04 TOYOTA HI-LUX DSL M/T	XPE-789	500,000	450,000	472,500
109 04 TOYOTA REVO DLX DSL M/T	XMX-617	440,000	374,000	411,400
110 05 TOYOTA HI ACE DSL M/T	ZBG-584	950,000	807,500	888,250
CEBU				
FORD				
1 04 FORD ESCAPE XLS M/T	YAG-356	680,000	578,000	635,800
2 05 FORD EVEREST M/T	YCE-584	790,000	592,500	651,750
HYUNDAI				
3 05 HYUNDAI STAREX GRX CRDI A/T	XSF-244	900,000	675,000	742,500
4 02 HYUNDAI STAREX SVX RV A/T	XFF-305	450,000	382,500	420,750
5 05 HYUNDAI MATRIX M/T	FFM-968	420,000	378,000	396,900
6 04 HYUNDAI MATRIX GL A/T	FFB-757	380,000	285,000	313,500
ISUZU				
7 04 ISUZU D-MAX M/T	XMU-239	755,000	641,750	705,925
KIA				
8 04 KIA KC2700 PANORAMIC M/T	FFL-497	340,000	255,000	280,500
9 05 KIA CARNIVAL SEDONA M/T	KCP-818	575,000	431,250	474,375
MITSUBISHI				
10 02 MITSUBISHI L200 STRADA DSL M/T	EEZ 544	610,000	457,500	503,250
NISSAN				
11 05 NISSAN X-TRAIL 4X2 A/T	YCD-410	730,000	620,500	682,550
12 05 NISSAN SENTRA GSX A/T	FFT-422	375,000	318,750	350,625
13 06 NISSAN SENTRA GSX M/T	FFW-216	600,000	450,000	495,000
14 05 NISSAN URVAN ESCAPADE DSL M/T	NO PLATE	700,000	525,000	577,500
15 05 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL M/T	FFU-247	605,000	514,250	565,675
16 04 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL A/T	XSL-937	600,000	450,000	495,000
17 04 NISSAN FRONTIER DSL M/T	TEMP 0604	620,000	465,000	511,500
18 03 NISSAN TERRANO 4X4 DSL M/T	FFK-808	800,000	600,000	660,000
SUZUKI				
19 06 SUZUKI APV GL M/T	NO PLATE	630,000	535,500	589,050
20 05 SUZUKI APV GLX A/T	FFN-883	600,000	450,000	495,000
TOYOTA				
21 03 TOYOTA REVO GLX M/T	XHZ-563	350,000	262,500	288,750
22 96 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX DSL M/T	HVF-223	100,000	85,000	93,500



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AUCTION GUIDELINES

1. Pre-Auction/ Knockout Rules.
   a. Auctioneer has the right to award units to buyers who bid at knockout prices, prior to auction date, on a first-to-bid priority basis.
   b. For pre-awarded units, buyers must comply with the payment requirements within the same day that the unit was awarded.
   c. Payment Mode: P 10,000 Cash or Manager's Check per unit.
2. Auction Proper Rules
   a. **Inventory List.** Units which are not pre-sold on knockout basis
   b. **Participants.** Open to the public except for employees of PSBank and their relatives to the first degree.
   c. **Registration.** Bidders must register with the auctioneer before they can participate
   d. **Show Money :** P 10,000 Cash or Manager's Check payable to PSBank.
   e. **To Bid.** Bidders will write their bids on bid sheets attached to every vehicle. Bidders are allowed to adjust their bids in competition with other bidders within the auction hours.
   f. **To Win.** The bidder who has the highest bid appearing on the bid sheet, will be declared the winner. If the winner cancels his bid, the next highest bidder will be declared the substitute winner.
   g. **Payment Mode.** Cash or in-house financing
   h. **Upfront Payment.** P 10,000 Cash or Manager's Check per unit
   i. Decision of the Auctioneer is final

Wallace, Pistons down Cavs anew

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—RASHEED Wallace scored 10 of his 16 points in the final quarter and made a go-ahead jump shot over Cleveland's LeBron James with 24 seconds left to lift the Detroit Pistons to a 79-76 victory over the Cavaliers on Thursday.

Detroit now has a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals. Game 3 is Sunday night in Cleveland.

James rolled his eyes, slumped his shoulders and looked toward his coaches and teammates.

It was another frustrating night for the Cleveland Cavaliers and their star. James and the Cavs tried to attack the Detroit Pistons differently, but came away with the same result.

"Down the stretch, he wanted the ball in a lot of situations," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "He made some big plays in the fourth quarter."

James, who passed up a shot in the final seconds of the series opener, took and missed a spinning shot in the lane with Richard Hamilton draped on him on the ensuing possession.

"I believe there was some contact, but there's been a lot of contact throughout this series," James said. "We're a no-excuse team and we can't look at the last play as why we lost. We just have to get better."

Larry Hughes grabbed the offensive rebound of James' miss, couldn't make a 10-footer and Anderson Varejao was just off on a tip that would've given Cleveland the lead. After Wallace grabbed the rebound, Cavs coach Mike Brown was called for a technical foul after arguing that James was fouled on his shot attempt.

Detroit started 2-0 against the Cavs in the second round last year, but the Cavs responded by winning three straight before losing Game 7 on the road.

James finished with 19 points on 7-of-19 shooting and had seven assists, six turnovers and six rebounds. He scored a playoff-low 10 points on 5-of-15 shooting in Game 1.

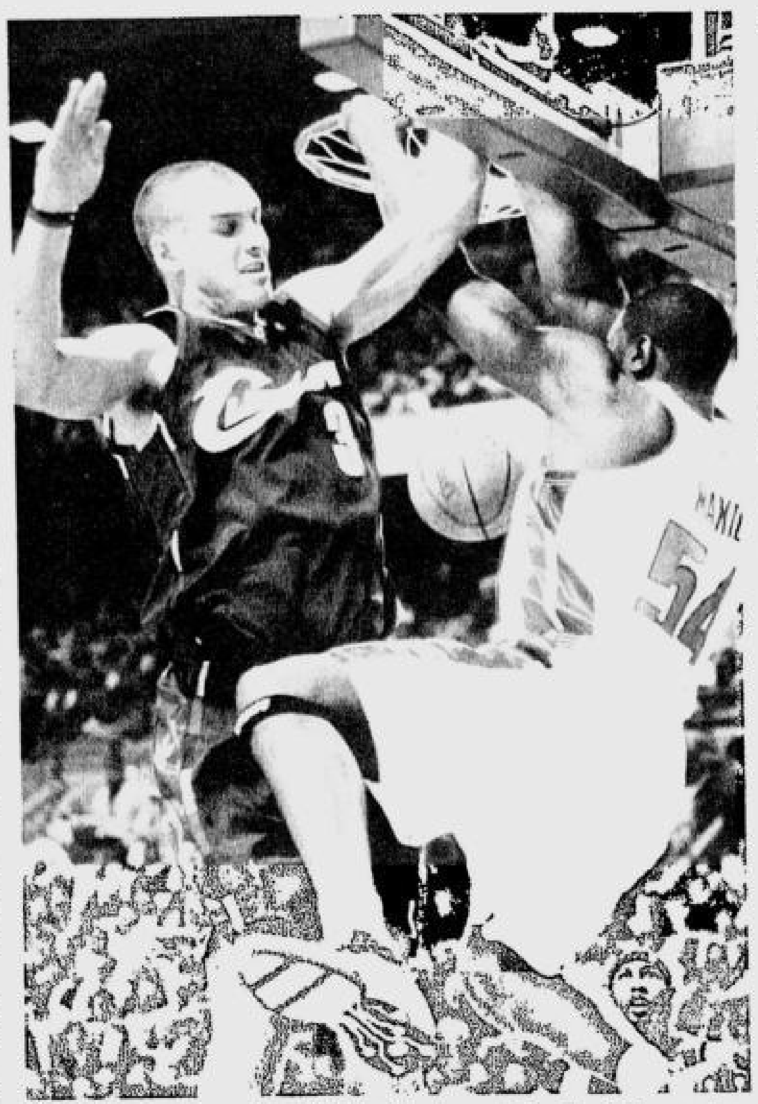
For the second straight game, he didn't have much help offensively.

Sasha Pavlovic and Varejao each scored 14, but key players Drew Gooden, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Larry Hughes combined for just 11 points. Rookie Daniel Gibson added a playoff-high nine points.

Hamilton and Chauncey Billups had 13 points apiece and Jason Maxiell provided a boost off the bench with a playoff-high 15.

The Cavs led 50-38 after a dominant second quarter before a lackluster third allowed Detroit to come back.

AP



THE PISTONS' Jason Maxiell (right) dunks past Cavaliers' Alexsandar Pavlovic in Game 2 of their NBA Eastern Conference playoff. REUTERS

SHARAPOVA: Despite hurting shoulder

Sharapova barges into Istanbul s'finals

ISTANBUL—RUSSIAN TOP SEED Maria Sharapova reached the semifinals of the 200,000-dollar WTA Istanbul tournament with a hard-won victory over Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska Thursday.

The world number two beat the seventh-seeded Pole 6-2, 3-6, 6-0, but a shoulder injury that had kept her away from the courts since March appeared to still strain her performance, just days before the French Open.

"My shoulder is still aching a little bit. Let's see how I will do tomorrow," she said of Friday's semifinal against France's Aravane Rezai, whom she described as "a young player who has nothing to lose against me."

Rezai, who ousted fourth-seeded Venus Williams, continued her winning series Thursday, defeating another American player, Meghann Shaughnessy, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4.

In the other semifinal Friday, second-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia will face Ukrainian Alona Bondarenko.

Dementieva struggled in her quarterfinal match against Catalina Castano of Colombia, but eventually prevailed 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

AFP

Tigresses win in taekwondo

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS' SEASONED jins sparkled in the recent Smart/Petron all-women's taekwondo championships by bagging three gold medals in the senior advance division at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Flyweight Sarah Arellano, bantam Esther Marie Singson and feather Kathleen Valenzuela produced the golden efforts that enabled UST to edge the Philippine junior team for top honors.

Arellano beat Karla Jane Alava, Singson whipped FEU's Avegail-Ann de Dios and Valenzuela bested Sheena Mae Perlas.

Other gold medalists: Ma. Camille Manalo d. Izel Masungsong, lightweight; Emron Golding d. Marifi Violeta Gadit, welter/heavy; Michelle Monterey d. Ronalyne Ramos, finweight; Micaele Gabrielle Abaquita, fin (senior novice); Karen Ramos feather/heavy (senior novice); Dyna marie Asada, fly/bantam.

144 pairs tee off in Sherwood Invt'l

TRECE MARTIREZ, CAVITE—A TOTAL OF 144 member-guest teams tee off today in the Invitational tournament of Sherwood Hills Golf Club, one of the fast-rising golfing hubs south of Metro Manila.

Club chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña and sports and games head Jaime Borromeo leads the pairs vying for top honors and prizes at stake.

This year's Invitational is also a way of thanking members for their support following Sherwood Hills' selection as one of the world's best golf courses, according to Sobrepeña.

Golf Digest International, the world's leading golf magazine, voted the creation of Jack Nicklaus as the 85th best course outside the United States, third best in Asia and first in Southeast Asia. Recently, www.golf007.com, the no.1 golf website in Hong Kong and China, named the course Asia's best as well.

"These awards and the member's support for our programs inspire us to improve further the facilities and services of Sherwood Hills," said Sobrepeña of the event sponsored by Golforce Inc., Club Leisure, Splash Island and Wilson Sports.

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BALER RAVINA	COOL PAP	05H 57'55.60
SANTY BARNACHEA	CHAMPION	05H 57'55.60
IRISH VALENZUELA	COSSACK VODKA	05H 57'55.60
VICTOR ESPIRITU	WOW MAGIC SING	05H 57'55.60
ERICSON OBOSA	BACCHUS	05H 58'58.45
MERCULIO RAMOS	U-FREIGHT	05H 58'58.45
SALVADOR SALVADOR	CARGOHAUS	05H 59'31.76
LLOYD LUCIEN REYNANTE	AIR 21	06H 00'09.63
RENATO SAMBRANO	COSSACK VODKA	06H 00'44.07
JOHN RICAFORT	WOW MAGIC SING	06H 01'28.08
HARVEY SICAM	WOW MAGIC SING	06H 01'28.08
RONNEL HUALDA	WOW MAGIC SING	06H 01'28.08

SPORTS

Skidding teams in key matches

FALTERING SQUADS try to check their skid in crucial PBL Unity Cup matches today.

Burger King and Toyota Balintawak seek a revival of their vibrant starts when they dispute the remaining quarterfinal bonus at the end of the elimination round at The Arena in San Juan.

Gametime is 12 noon.

It will be a fight for survival in the second game at 4 p.m. when cellar-dwellers Dazz and San Miguel-Magnolia collide. The winner will advance to the next round, with the loser taking the exit.

Early semifinalists Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala and Harbour Centre, meanwhile, have lesser worries as they shoot for the solo lead at 2 p.m.

Toyota Balintawak, running fourth with a 5-6 record, came within striking distance of the twice-to-beat quarterfinal advantage before dropping two straight matches.

A win will put the Road Stars in the company of the Henkel Sista Super Sealers, which earlier clinched the third spot and the first quarterfinal bonus by ending the elimination with a 6-6 slate.

It will not be as easy, though, for Burger King as it tries to secure the quarterfinal incentive.

The fifth-running Whoppers, a game behind at 4-7, must win by at least 17 points to secure a higher quotient even if they wind up tied with the Road Kings at 5-7.

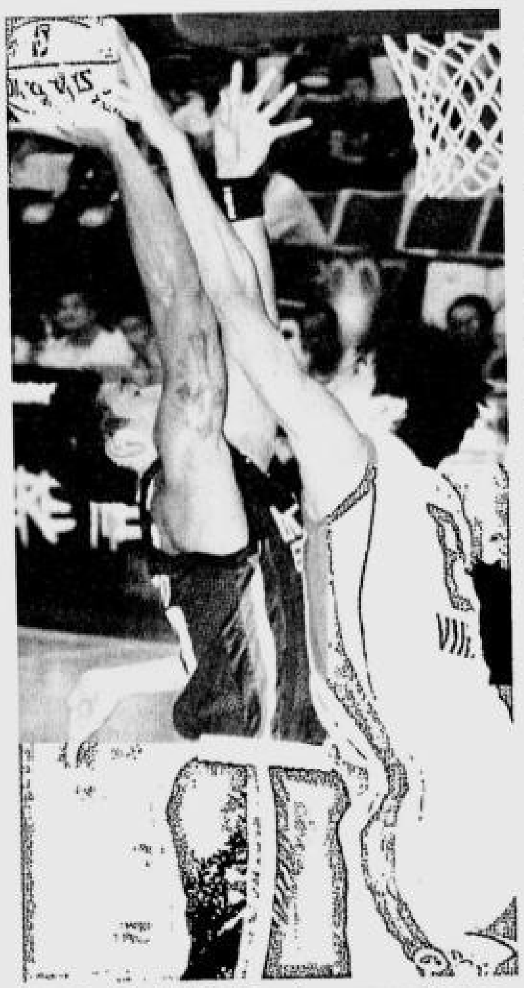
A promising early contender, the Whoppers nose-dived with seven straight losses after an impressive 4-0 start.

The Whoppers boast a formidable cast led by JR Quiñahan, Ronjay Buenafe and Mike Bravo, but the crew had been faltering in the final stretch.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
C. Lhuillier	9	2
Harbour	9	2
Henkel Sista	6	6
Toyota Bal.	5	6
Burger King	4	7
Magnolia	3	8
Dazz	3	8

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
12 noon—Burger King vs Toyota Balintawak
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs CL-Pera Padala
4 p.m.—Dazz vs San Miguel-Magnolia



JIM Viray's (right) defensive savvy will come in handy for Burger King today. RYAN LIM

Closing birdie lifts Bayron to victory

JAY BAYRON CAPPED A two-under-par 70 with a birdie to pip Australian Josh Younger by a shot and top the HLA Saujana Amateur Open at the Saujana Golf Club in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, yesterday.

Bayron, coming off a third place finish in the Malaysian Amateur Open in Sabah last week, banged in a downhill putt from six feet on the par-5 18th.

Counting his back-to-back 71s, the 27-year-old Bayron wound up with a 54-hole total of 212 and earned a spot in the Asian Tour's Malaysian Open next year.

Younger also closed out with a 70 for 213, with Taiwan's Chiang Chen-chih clinching third on 221 after a 68. He nipped Anthony Fernando, who also had 221 after a 69, in a countback.

BAYRON: By one

The other Filipinos finishers: Ferdie Aunzo (227), Mike Bibat (228), Miko Alejandro (232), Wolen Superal (235), Gene Bondoc (239), Dante Becierra (240) and Eugene Bunyi (242).

Orcollo, Corteza banner Filipinos' 10-ball charge

DENNIS ORCOLLO AND LEE VANN Corteza hurdled their first two matches late Thursday to lead the Filipinos' charge in the Predator World 10-Ball Championship in Jacksonville, Florida.

World Pool League champion Orcollo smashed American Richard Jones, 10-3.

But it was Corteza who posted the bigger wins by nipping Carlos Cabello of Spain, 10-8, before thumping 2003 World 9-ball champ Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 10-7.

Other Filipinos in the winners' bracket were Marlon Manalo, US-based Al Lapena and Edwin Montal, as well as Alex Pagulayan and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who both drew first-round byes.

Manalo routed Ryan Farah, 10-2; Lapena bested Aquino, 10-5; while Montal bested Matt Tetreault, 10-8.

The 28-year-old Orcollo is slated to face Darren Appleton of Britain, winner over Neil Fujiwara of Japan and Luc Salvas of Canada. *Marlon Bernardino, Correspondent*

RP BETS: Ecole Française de Manille students José Corpuz (right) and Tom Felix will represent Manila's rugby community in the Jeune Plenete Rugby in Paris as members of the World Team. French Ambassador Gérard Chesnel will lead today's launch of the Jeune Planete Rugby at EFM in line with the 2007 Rugby World Cup which will be held in Paris in September.

NU nips FEU, gains q'finals

JAY JAHNKE WAS SILENT FOR THE FIRST three quarters but when he finally created a stir, nobody could silence him.

Sinking all his 15 points in the fourth period—all from three-point range—Jahnke towed National U past faltering Far Eastern, 73-69, as the Bulldogs entered the quarterfinals of the Filoil-Flying V Preseason Invitational Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

Jahnke's first triple in the 7:54 mark of the fourth period kicked off a 13-5 spurt that gave NU, which had trailed for three quarters, a 65-63 spread.

Benedict Fernandez and Alfredo Gerilla put FEU back in the driver's seat, 67-65, only to be greeted by Jahnke's fourth triple for a 68-67 NU advantage.

Marnel Baracael gave the Tamaraws their last taste of the lead with a twinner, 69-67, 3:15 to play, although he also accounted for FEU's final three misses.

It was an all-NU show from there as the Bulldogs rose to 4-2 and gained the second quarterfinals slot in Group B after La Salle.

Despite its third setback—its third straight—in five games, FEU is still in contention in Group A along with San Beda (3-2), UP (1-4) and Perpetual Help (2-3).

Perpetual thwarted Mapua, 72-56, in the second game.

Romina S. Austria

Petron-San Mig Grand Touring series tomorrow

THE LAND'S FINEST DRIVERS AND THE TOUGHEST CARS TAKE CENTERSTAGE in the 2007 Petron-San Mig Coffee Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championshp Series which kicks off tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario town. A brainchild of motorsports godfather Johnny Tan, the event is a combination of sprint and semi-enduro races that will challenge the driver's talent and his car's durability. The four-round series, also sponsored by Yokohama, Denso and Casino Filipino also gives car manufacturers equal chances at the titles. Participants will compete in the GT125 (125hp), GT200 (200hp) and GT300 (300hp) classes.

The Philippine Real Estate Festival

THE PHILIPPINE REAL ESTATE FESTIVAL, WILL BE HELD AT THE WORLD Trade Center on July 26-29. The project is for the benefit of the "Sandaang Bahay Bawat Bayan" project of the Creba Social Housing Foundation and of Bahay Pag-ibig Foundation. Although an OFW is the one that works abroad, it is his/her family left in the Philippines who actually decide how to spend the hard-earned money. Through this festival, developers can target their real market: the families of the OFWs who take care of their loved ones' investments. The festival will also hold free seminars on a wide array of topics on practical investments from managing on a tight budget to detecting fake land titles. On top of that, there will be free phone calls abroad to help families coordinate with their relatives on the prospect of buying properties. Different embassies and government agencies would also be present in the event. The Philippine Real Estate Festival will be an avenue for many industry "first": The first-ever Ms. Real Estate Philippines, a search for the voice and face that will represent the goals of the industry; The Kasaysayan ng Bahay-Pilipino, which will trace the evolution of the Filipino dwelling from pre-colonization up to present; And the BREWW awards, BizNews Asia's recognition of the industry's Who's Who, conceptualized by the MOPC chair, Tony Lopez of BizNews Asia.

Bay Garden unveils showroom for newest tower

FEDERAL LAND, INC WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN ITS DOORS TO PALAWAN Tower, the latest addition to the luxurious Bay Garden Towers via an exclusive unveiling ceremony of its showroom on May 26, at the Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The event will highlight distinctly-designed, resort-inspired model units, ideal for families, expatriates and retirees from abroad who wish to settle in Manila. Situated near the Blue Wave commercial center and the popular Mall of Asia, Palawan Tower is a most convenient dwelling that brims with excitement as it sits at the heart of numerous shops and entertainment stores. It's also just a few minutes' drive away from the Adriatico Circle and Malate district, known for their bohemian color and flavors. Palawan Tower boasts of 16 levels on one podium which will be shared with adjacent towers. Similar to the existing towers, would-be residents can enjoy first-rate amenities at the podium such as free-form outdoor swimming pool, children's wading pool, outdoor playground, twelve poolside gazebos and a steam room. Residents would also enjoy a rare view of the stunning Manila Bay, which beckons from the units' own lanai or balcony. In addition, Palawan Tower puts more value to your hard-earned money as it offers easy, affordable, and light-weight payment terms. So come home to a great vacation everyday. Call 551-0888 or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph for more information.

2007 Summer Conference on OFWS

THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION (PSA), IN COORDINATION with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), will hold its 2007 Summer Conference on Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), with the theme "OFWs: Bagong Bayani, Ilan ba talaga kayo?" The Conference will be held on June 5, 1 to 6 p.m. at the BSP Assembly Hall, 3rd floor, Five-Storey Building , BSP Complex. The forum intends to clarify the official headcount of OFWs based on the stock estimate of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), the deployment statistics of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the survey results of the National Statistics Office (NSO). The conference is open to both PSA members and non-members (such as officials of concerned government agencies, academe, NGOs, banking community, and media) who are interested in the compilation and analysis of statistics on OFWs. Conference participants will be charged a minimum registration fee of P100 for PSA members and P200 for non-members, to cover administrative expenses (such as printing of conference materials and refreshments). Kindly confirm your attendance to the conference with Jennifer Castillo, secretariat assistant of the PSA. Any queries pertaining to the conference may be directed through her via telephone at 920-6513 or fax at 456-1928.

ITD training on emotional excellence

THE INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (ITD) BRINGS TO Manila renowned international trainer Dr. Leonard Yong, for a two-day workshop on "Winning with Emotional Excellence: The Heart of a High EQ Organization" to be held on May 28 and 29. Dr. Yong is the author and inventor of the Leonard Personality Inventory (LPI) Profiling Tool, a world recognized groundbreaking profiling model and software used to develop Emotional Excellence in the workplace. In the two-day results driven workshop, Dr. Yong will share the steps involved in developing a high EQ organization and the importance of achieving Emotional Excellence. IQ alone is no longer sufficient to thrive in today's competitive landscape. Research has shown the direct effect of an organization's level of Emotional Intelligence to its financial and business performance. This Master World-Class Training is organized by the Institute of Training and Development (ITD) Consulting Group Inc, the leading multinational provider of superior, comprehensive organizational, and HR development solutions in the Asia Pacific for national and regional building. Attend and be transformed! The ITD-Master World-Class Training will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Manila's Grand Ballroom on May 28-29. Register now and avail of super early bird rates. For details, call ITD Consulting at 887-7428, visit the website at www.itd.com.my or e-mail itdmanila@itd.com.my.

China Bank draws first winners of '8.7M at 87'

A TOTAL OF 37 LUCKY CHINA BANK DEPOSITORS WON IN THE FIRST OF three preliminary draws of China Bank's anniversary raffle promotion dubbed "P8.7M at 87". Suzette A. Agustin, client of Bacolod-North Drive, bagged the top prize of P1,000,000. The bank also gave away P100,000 each to four winners from Metro Manila, four from Luzon, and two from Visayas and Mindanao, and P10,000 each to eight winners from Metro Manila, ten from Luzon, and eight from Visayas and Mindanao. Please visit www.chinabank.ph or see prints ads for the complete list of first draw winners. New depositors who opened and will open new accounts and existing depositors who made and will make additional deposits from May 1 to June 30 qualify for the second draw on July 13. The last preliminary draw is slated for Sept. 14, and for the grand draw on Oct. 15, an extremely lucky depositor will win the grand prize of P2,000,000. Please see flyers or visit www.chinabank.ph for the complete promo mechanics.

Reader's Digest Trusted Brands at Gateway Mall

FREEBIES, RAFFLE PRIZES, SPECIAL GIFTS AND HUGE DISCOUNTS AWAIT the public as the participating awardees of the prestigious Reader's Digest Trusted Brands 2007 showcase their best in a 4-day fun-filled exhibit on May 24-27, at the Trade Hall of the Araneta Gateway in Cubao. Organized by Reader's Digest Philippines, the event is dubbed as "Trusted Brands Winners' Exhibit 2007". Exhibitors include Ajinomoto, Boysen, Coca Cola, Crown Asia, Emperador, General Electric, Metrobank, Nokia, Panda, Petron, Philam, Pilot, PLDT, PLDT MyDSL, Philippine National Bank, Purefoods, San Miguel and St. Luke's Medical Center Completing the roster of exhibitors is A-Z Direct Marketing, Reader's Digest's exclusive distributor. As much as 50 to 70 percent on select Reader's Digest books and titles will be given, as well as exciting offers for new subscriptions. Raffle prizes will also be given away all throughout the 4 days.

Petron promo to create 12 millionaires

FROM MAY 7 TO SEPT. 6, PURCHASES OF ALL PETRON-BRANDED products-gasoline, diesel, gasul, lubricants, specialty products, etc - are eligible for the "Sandosenang Milyonaryo" promo. Petron Fleet Card and Petron-BPI Mastercard holders have twice as much chances of winning as they get two raffle entries per P300 purchase. To register in the Sandosenang Milyonaryo promo, simply text: PETRON <space> REG <space> name <slash> complete address to 2366. To send entries, text: PETRON <space> receipt number <slash> amount purchased <slash> service station ID to 2366. Petron-BPI Mastercard holders may register by texting: PETRON <space> REG <space> last 4 digits on the card <slash> complete address to 2366. To send entries, text: PETRON <space> receipt number <slash> amount purchased <slash> service station ID to 2366. Petron Fleet Card holders can register by texting: PETRON <space> REG <space> last 5 digits on the card <slash> name <slash> complete address to 2366. Entries may be sent in by texting: PETRON <space> invoice number of transaction slip <slash> service station ID to 2366. Hurry, enter the Petron Sandosenang Milyonaryo promo - - your chance to be a millionaire is just one text message away!

Run What You Brung rides again

ON MAY 27, ALL ROADS LEAD TO SUBIC INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY (SIR). Set to be the regal tryst for speed zealots across the country, the raceway is bound to experience velocity at its maddest point. In this year's leg of the Run What You Brung Championship (RWYB), two of the most respected entities in the car industry coalesce to package the race bolder than ever: Diamond Rent-a-Car works hand in hand with Sports Values Inc. (SVI) to continue the decade-old tradition among aspiring racers. RWYB, which started out in 1995 as a simple idea of having fun on the tracks, is a circuit racing competition open to all novice racers who desire to buzz the car community a reputable stature. Since its inception, RWYB has paved the way for career breakthroughs for circuit drivers, especially during its 1999 segment wherein the first-ever RWYB champion was crowned. Interested parties may call (+63)918-9061211 and look for Quincy Buenaflor.

ABS-CBN Multimedia introduces WarRock

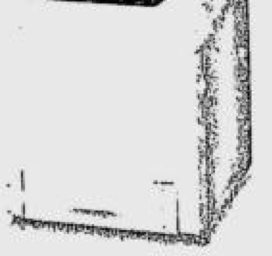
ABS-CBN MULTIMEDIA INTRODUCES THE FIRST ONLINE MILITARY tactical FPS in the Philippines - WarRock. Developed by Dream Execution Techonology Co Ltd of Korea, War Rock takes the multiplayer FPS genre to the next level with stunning graphics, state of the art weapons, action-packed gameplay and endless fun for everyone. With five different character classes to master, gamers can play individually or in a team. Players can participate in three modes of gameplay including Close Quarters Combat, Urban Ops and Battlegroup. War Rock first started service in Korea then the United States and Japan, and now it's here! In War Rock, you play as an elite soldier with hundred of players from all over the country, showcasing not only your skills but also accuracy and strategy. Complete objectives in mission based game modes or survive exciting team battles. To further enhance your game, there in an optional virtual shop where you can purchase a wide variety of new and better items, content and services - all just a click away. No need for game time fees, in War Rock, you Play4Free. No other games in the Philippines today can compare.

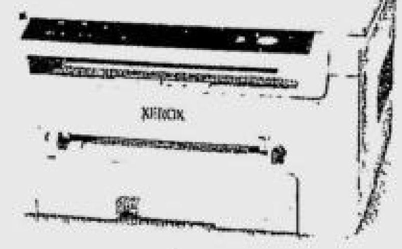
Beach football fever hits Calatagan

BEACH FOOTBALL, ONE OF THE UPCOMING OUTDOOR SPORTS IN THE country, takes center stage as Rudy Project, the leading brand of specialty eyewear for sports and the active lifestyle, presents the 1st Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational in Playa Calatagan on Saturday, May 26. Thirty teams in the men's and ladies' open divisions picked from among the best university and club league teams will be competing for top honors in the day-long sporting event. Beach football is making waves all over the world as a new, exciting outdoor sports craze. Played barefoot, each team is composed of 10 players, with 5 players a side playing two 12-minute halfs. Playa Calatagan and Smart Communications Inc, the country's leading wireless services provider are co-presentors of the 1st Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational. Major sponsors include Nestea, Unilever brands Axe and Rexona, Rush fitness water and Ford Escape. Leading teams from the university league like UST, Ateneo and La Salle join club league teams from Kaya, Union, and Spain FC in a scramble for trophies and medals for the top three teams in each division. Special prizes likewise will be given to the tournament MVP, best striker and best goalkeeper in both divisions. Philippine Daily Inquirer is the exclusive media broadsheet partner for this event, together with Sunday Inquirer Magazine, who is sponsoring a ladies' team in the event.

Printer for small workgroups

TAILORED TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM WORKGROUPS, the new Fuji Xerox WorkCentre 3119, DocuPrint C2090FS, and DocuPrint C2100 are new laser printers aimed at small businesses. In particular, the printers are expected to take a large bite out in the multi-function printer market due to their low cost of ownership and quality prints. Catered to the needs of home and SOHO users, the WorkCentre 3119 is an affordable multi-function monochrome laser printer with printing, scanning, and copying capabilities. It prints and copies at a speedy 18 pages per minute (ppm) in black and white. The WC3119 can also scan up to 4,800 dpi enhanced mode in colour and comes bundled with Nuance PaperPort 10.0 document management software. DocuPrint C2090FS is Fuji Xerox Printers' first low cost yet high performing colour multi-function laser printer that is built specifically for small workgroups. It is designed to increase work efficiency and staff productivity. It has the ability to print at 25ppm in black and white and 5ppm in colour at a resolution of 600 x 600 dpi. In addition, it carries a unique feature in its direct scan to USB memory capability, which allows users to store and scan data easily and speedily without a PC. The DocuPrint C2100 is built for workgroups that require a high quality A4 network colour laser printers. It prints at 25ppm in black and white and 17ppm in colour. Superior colour production is achieved through Fuji Xerox's new direct transfer imaging system technology and unique Emulation Aggregation High Quality toner. The C2100 can support enhanced printing of up to 9,600 dpi.





IN THIS ISSUE
- **Insurance group** sets study of members' tax payments /B2
- **Hotel, resort projects** ride RP tourism boom /B8

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BUSINESS

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Merchandise imports grew 10.4% in March

Anticipated growth in exports accounted for rise in shipments to RP

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS POSTED A DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH in March as local manufacturers' increased purchases of raw electronic materials in anticipation of a rise in global demand for their export products.

Imports in March reached $4.57 billion, up 10.4 percent from that of the same month last year, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The rise in imports was led by the increase in demand for electronics, which accounted for 50 percent of the country's total import bill for the month. Imported electronics were valued at $2.29 billion, marking a 22-percent rise from a year ago.

The trade figure in March brought the total imports for the first quarter to $11.97 billion, rising 7.1 percent from the same period last year.

According to earlier report from the NSO, exports for the first quarter stood at $12.15 billion. The country's balance of trade, therefore, had hit a surplus of $181 million during the three-month period.

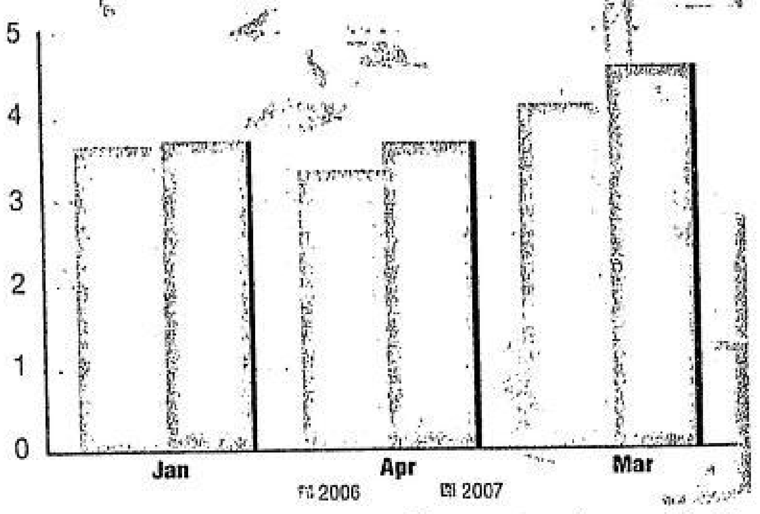
Balance of trade is the difference between the country's exports and imports. A surplus means that the country's dollar earnings from exports are higher than what it spends for imports.

Aside from electronics, other top imports for March were: mineral fuels and related products ($630.55 million), transport

MERCHANDISE/ B2

TOTAL IMPORTS

January to March 2006 and 2007 (in billion US dollars)



Sentiment on RP business seen to remain upbeat in Q2

By Doris C. Dumlao

BUSINESS SENTIMENT REMAINED upbeat this second quarter mainly on the back of higher consumer spending during the election period, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in its latest quarterly survey.

In a press briefing yesterday, top BSP officials announced that the local business sector's confidence index for the second quarter went up to 46.4 percent, rising by 14.8 points compared with that of the same period last year, and 1.5 points over that of the previous quarter.

Apart from the increased spending—brought on by the elections, summer and the anticipated opening of classes in June—respondents also attributed their optimism to the generally stable macroeconomic environment as reflected by the appreciating peso, low inflation, stable interest rate, improved investment conditions, and enhanced business strategies.

"The result is very encouraging from the perspective of monetary policy," BSP officer-in-charge Diwa Guinigundo said.

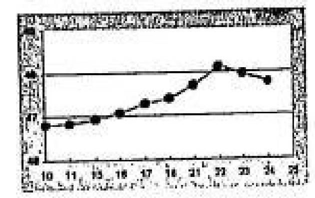
"As you know, the challenge is excess liquidity (in the financial system). But if we have business firms continuing to be robust and very bullish in terms of their expansion plans, those extra liquidity will be absorbed by higher levels of economic activity, and they don't have to be inflationary," he said.

The BSP's business expectations survey was conducted nationwide from April 10 to May 8. It covered 1,076 firms, of which 477 are within the National Capital Re-

SENTIMENT/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MAY

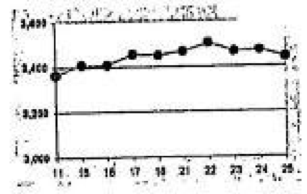
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.05 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 25, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



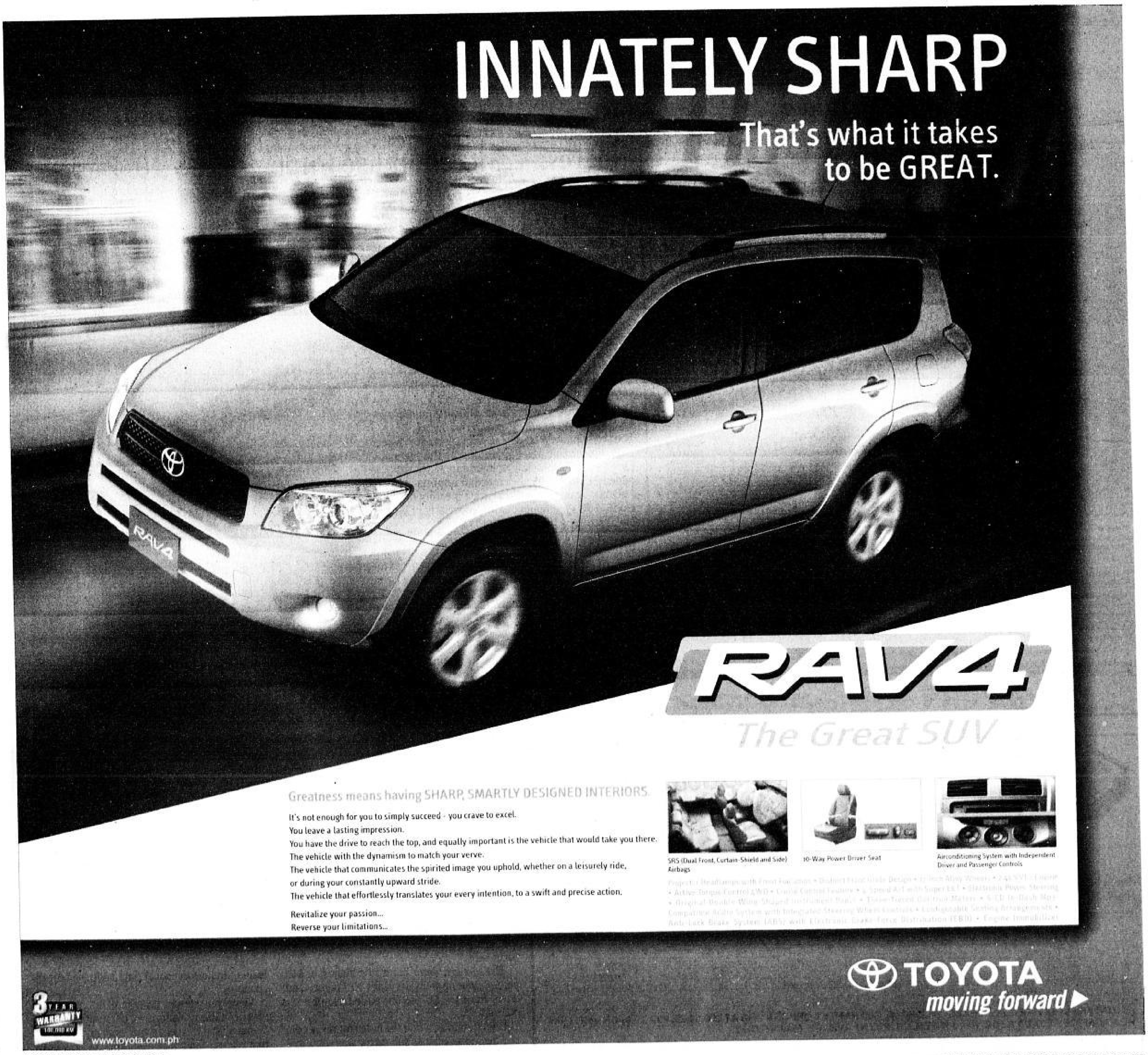
(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.84% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.84 percent lower as investors locked in profits after Wall Street's slump overnight, dealers said.

Investors also exercised caution amid recent comments by former US Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan that China's rapidly rising stock market may eventually fall sharply, possibly taking with them the rest of the global equity market, they said.

SHARES/ B2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ATS urges upgrade of RP ports

By Riza T. Olchondra

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM, ONE OF the country's leading shipping companies, has urged the government to hasten the development of ports to support the expected growth in the volume of cargo.

ATS president and CEO Enrique Aboitiz Jr. said in an interview that he expected cargo volume to increase by 7 percent this year.

The company is setting aside P600 million to P700 million this year to add to the cargo space of its passenger vessels to cope with the anticipated demand.

ATS is also set to buy cargo vessels this year to respond to the expected growth in the freight service business.

Aboitiz said the company planned to buy two 400 twenty equivalent unit (TEU) vessels, most likely from Chinese shipbuilders.

Meanwhile, ATS unit MCC Transport Philippines plans to use the port in Batangas, but only after it is upgraded to international standards.

Initially, the vessels of the container transportation unit of ATS will call only on the international-grade container ports of Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.

"We are also considering calling on Batangas but it is not yet fully developed. We need a port that can accommodate fast cargo turnover and volume growth," Aboitiz said.

"Batangas has a lot of potential, especially because of the plan to link it to the South Luzon Expressway. This will take shipments closer to more service areas, but international-standard operations have not been established there," he added.

The Philippine Ports Authority, which operates Batangas port, has completed the second phase of development but is still bidding out the cargo handling contract for the new terminal.

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2. A 322-sq.m. lot w/ 4-storey school bldg.	Betterlife Subd., Bo. Tanzang Luma, Imus, Cavite	P 11,937,000.00
3. A 298 sq.m. res'l lot w/ 2-storey house	No. 45 Narra St., Mutual Homes I, Putatan, Muntinlupa City	P 2,624,000.00
Various residential lots w/ improvement at Commission Civil Street, Jaro, Iloilo City.		
4. Lot 827-A - 147 sq.m. (comm'l)		P 1,470,000.00
5. Lot 827-B - 133 sq.m.		P 1,064,000.00
6. Lot 827-C - 133 sq.m.		P 1,064,000.00
7. Lot 827-D - 133 sq.m.		P 864,000.00
8. Lot 827-E - 135 sq.m.		P 878,000.00
9. Lot 827-F - 151 sq.m.		P 982,000.00
10. Lot 827-G - 153 sq.m.		P 994,000.00
11. Lot 827-H - 136 sq.m.		P 884,000.00
12. Lot 827-I - 137 sq.m.		P 884,000.00
13. Lot 827-J - 136 sq.m.		P 891,000.00
14. Lot 827-K - 137 sq.m.		P 884,000.00
15. Lot 827-L - 144 sq.m.		P 936,000.00
16. Lot 827-M - 261 sq.m.		P 1,174,000.00
17. Lot 827-O - 764 sq.m. (comm'l)		P 7,640,000.00
18. Lot 827-Q - 121 sq.m.		P 823,000.00
19. Lot 827-R - 124 sq.m.		P 806,000.00
20. Lot 827-S - 124 sq.m.		P 806,000.00
21. Lot 827-T - 122 sq.m.		P 830,000.00
22. Lot 827-W - 124 sq.m.		P 843,000.00
23. Lot 827-X - 79 sq.m.		P 514,000.00
24. Lot 827-Y - 78 sq.m.		P 507,000.00
25. Lot 827-Z - 81 sq.m.		P 526,000.00
26. Lot 827-AA - 136 sq.m.		P 925,000.00
27. Lot 827-DD - 97 sq.m.		P 631,000.00
28. Lot 827-EE - 77 sq.m.		P 501,000.00
29. Lot 827-FF - 75 sq.m.		P 488,000.00
30. Lot 827-GG - 78 sq.m.		P 507,000.00
31. Lot 827-HH - 128 sq.m.		P 870,000.00
32. Lot 827-JJ - 89 sq.m.		P 578,000.00
33. Lot 827-KK - 75 sq.m.		P 488,000.00
34. Lot 827-LL - 75 sq.m.		P 494,000.00
35. Lot 827-MM - 76 sq.m.		P 494,000.00
36. Lot 827-NN - 125 sq.m.		P 850,000.00
37. Lot 827-OO - 133 sq.m.		P 692,000.00
38. Lot 827-PP - 94 sq.m.		P 489,000.00
39. Lot 422-QQ - 93 sq.m.		P 484,000.00
40. Lot 827-RR - 88 sq.m.		P 458,000.00
41. Lot 827-SS - 86 sq.m.		P 447,000.00
42. Lot 827-TT - 167 sq.m.		P 868,000.00

Sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check will be received at the Special Assets Department, 30th Floor, Landbank Plaza, Malate, Manila on June 21, 2007, Thursday, not later than 10:00 a.m.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be followed immediately by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The increase in the open bidding shall be in multiples of P10,000.00.**

The Bid Documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. (c/o May or Tiffany) starting May 28, 2007.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on June 13, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 30th Floor Conference Room, Landbank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

For more information, please visit or call the SPAD at telephone no. 551-2200 locals 2374, 2481, 7248, 2482, 7645.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) CECILIA C. BORROMEO
Hed Office Commitee on Asset Disposal

(PDI - May 26, 2007)

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the *leasehold rights* of the Home Guaranty Corporation on the following properties are being offered for sale:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
1	APEC Villa No. 9 Triboa Bay, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City	one storey house	436	32,471,210.00	fully furnished, vacant
2	APEC Villa No. 10 Triboa Bay, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City	two storey house	440	31,872,320.00	fully furnished, vacant
3	APEC Villa No. 11 Triboa Bay, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City	two storey house	433	31,982,875.00	fully furnished, vacant

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-49 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
VICE PRESIDENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT
and DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI – May 26, 2007)

Insurance group sets study of members' tax payments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE INSURERS AND Reinsurers Association (Pira) said it would review the tax payments of nonlife insurance companies for 2005 and 2006 amid allegations of rampant tax evasion in the insurance industry.

Pira, which groups nonlife and reinsurance companies, said smoking out the tax-delinquent firms would burnish the tarnished image of those firms paying the correct taxes.

"The nonlife insurance association intends to work closely with the Insurance Commission and other government agencies to correct these allegations, which unfairly tar the industry already suffering from a heavy tax burden and increasingly tight regulatory impositions," said Mario Valdes, general manager of Pira.

The statement came following reports that the Insurance Commission discovered some P8 billion in unpaid premium taxes from 2002 to 2006.

Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said earlier that her office would coordinate with the Bureau of Internal Revenue to run after tax-delinquent insurance companies.

The move to investigate tax compliance of insurance firms followed a request from the Department of Finance, mother agency of the BIR, which said tax collection from insurance firms was smaller than expected.

The DOF said premium taxes collected by the BIR last year and in the first quarter of this year did not jive with the reported increase in income of major players in the insurance industry.

Pira said, however, that the government should not make sweeping statements of tax evasion as it was unfair to those firms paying taxes.

"We follow a very strict process in payment of the different taxes that the government imposes on insurance policies," Valdes said.

Valdes said that the industry pays the 12-percent documentary stamp tax five working days after the end of each month, the expanded value-added tax and fire service tax within the first 20 days after the end of the month, and the local government tax once a year.

Pira added that before insurance firms renew their certificates of authority (to sell insurance products) from the Insurance Commission, the latter reviews their compliance with insurance and tax regulations.

"The Insurance Commissioner should realize that she is the one giving our members the Certificate of Authority as proof that everything has been settled and complied with," Valdes said.

BOI reviews rules on granting of incentives to mass housing

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS IS reviewing the guidelines on the granting of incentives to mass housing projects to ensure that the shortage in housing units is addressed.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also BOI Managing Head, said in an interview that the review was focused on striking a balance between investments for high-rise or vertical projects and subdivision-type or horizontal developments.

Hernandez said a cap—in terms of housing units built over a period—was being considered to encourage a balance between the two types of projects.

For example, the BOI might not entertain more applications for incentives to high-rise developments if there are too many companies constructing high-rises, and instead give incentives to mass housing projects.

Hernandez said the government expected such policy to influence investment decisions since incentives like tax holidays represent some 12 percent of the production cost.

"We want to ensure that the investors' benefit from incentives translates to the benefit of the public," he said.

Further, he said the government wanted to ensure that BOI-approved mass housing projects actually help address the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council's estimate of a 1.4-million backlog in housing units.

On Wednesday, the Department of Trade and Industry reported that mass housing projects accounted for P12.65 billion or 17.25 percent of total committed investments from January to April.

In the same period, investments on mass housing projects doubled from P6.34 billion in 2006.

Some of these projects include those of Firm Builders Realty Development Corp. in Sibulan, Negros Oriental; Filinvest Land Inc. in Sto. Tomas, Batangas; Stateland Inc. in Cabuyao, Laguna, and Phinma Property Holdings Corp. in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Together, the four projects are worth a total of P439.28 million and are expected to provide a combined 1,145 new low-cost housing units.

Further, the BOI cited a study made by the Center for Research and Communication (now known as University of Asia and the Pacific), which showed that a mass housing project has a multiplier effect of is 16.6.

This means that for every peso invested in a housing project, P16.60 worth of investments in related industries sectors are generated.

Shares close ...

From page B1

The composite index gave up 29.01 points to 3,441.76 after trading between 3,426.82 and 3,470.77.

The broader all-share index fell 15.10 points to 2,212.32.

Losers outnumbered gainers 68 to 44, while 52 stocks were unchanged. Some 3.6 billion shares worth P5.5 billion ($118 million) were traded.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone added P15 to P2,505.

Other gainers include JG Summit Holdings Inc., which rose 50 centavos to P12.50, and SM Prime Holdings Inc., up 25 centavos to P12.50.

Leading decliners was conglomerate Ayala Corp., which shed P15 to P505.

Food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares lost P1.50 to P67.50, and its B-shares also fell P1.50 to P77. *AFP*

Merchandise imports grew 10.4% ...

From page B1

equipment ($177.84 million), industrial machinery and equipment ($176.96 million), chemicals ($101.55 million), textile yarn and related materials ($87.7 million), plastics ($83.27 million), cereals and cereal preparation ($74.12 million), iron and steel ($72.2 million), and telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery ($61.03 million).

The United States was the Philippines' biggest source of imports, accounting for $805.77 million of the total import bill for the month. Other major sources of imports were Japan, Singapore, China, South Korea, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Ireland, Thailand and Germany.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the increase in imports indicated that manufacturers are expecting higher domestic and export sales, especially of electronics, in the coming months.

Arroyo said that, so far, the country was on track to meet the government's export growth target of 11 percent for the entire year.

"Bulk of what the country imports is composed of capital goods and raw materials for production," Arroyo told the INQUIRER. "Whenever imports of electronic accessories, for instance, increase in one month, exports of electronics is seen to also increase in the following months."

But some analysts said the government's double-digit exports growth target was too optimistic, given the projected slowdown in the economy of the United States and other countries.

Benjamin Diokno, economics professor from the University of the Philippines, said exports could still grow, but only by a single-digit margin. He noted that neighboring Singapore recently reported a slowdown in exports because of lower demand from its major export markets.

"There is similarity between the Philippines and Singapore in terms of external trade because both have electronics as their major export product," Diokno said in an interview.

"It is too early to tell whether we are going to hit or miss the exports growth target for the year, but there is a forecast that the world economy is slowing down, and so we might not hit our goal. A double-digit growth target might be ambitious at this time."

Diokno also said the appreciation of the peso was another factor contributing to the uncertainty of hitting the exports growth target for the year.

Strengthening of the peso makes the country's exports more expensive and therefore less competitive.

The government's economic managers, however, said other currencies in the region were also appreciating. The competitiveness of Philippine-made products for export, therefore, are not totally eroded, they said.

Sentiment on RP business ...

From page B1

gion. Two-thirds of the respondents are small and medium enterprises, 599 of which are based outside Metro Manila.

Businesses also remained confident over the upcoming quarter, with the next-quarter index rising by almost 12 points over a year ago, although falling by 4.7 percent compared with that of the previous quarter.

The confidence index is computed as the percentage of firms that are optimistic less the percentage of those which are pessimistic.

The industry sector posted an all-time high confidence index of 45.7 percent, up from 30 percent a quarter ago, largely due to greater production operations of firms to meet election- and school-related demand in the second quarter, BSP director Iluminada Sicat said.

The services sector index, the highest at 61.6 percent, was up from last year's 30.7 percent, but down from the 50 percent posted the previous quarter.

Guinigundo said that the index for the renting and business activities sub-sector was abnormally high in the first quarter due to election-related projects. But with the electoral exercise over, the index went down quarter-on-quarter.

On the other hand, the confidence index of the hotels and restaurants sub-sector exhibited a downtrend in the second quarter due to a perceived slowdown in tourism-related activities following the end of the school break and the onset of the rainy season in June.

The business outlook of the wholesale and retail trade sector, as well as the construction sector, were higher than their comparable levels last year but lower quarter-on-quarter.

The employment outlook index for the next quarter also increased at 17.3 percent, and was particularly strong for the construction and real estate sub-sectors.

Meanwhile, 31.1 percent of respondent firms indicated plans to expand operations in the next quarter.

"Complementing their expansion plans is their strong outlook for job creation," BSP managing director Cyd Amador said. "Those are two leading indicators that should bode well for the economy."

Views on selected economic indicators were also favorable as majority of the respondents anticipated that the peso would remain strong and that interest rates would continue to slow down in the current quarter and next quarter.

But inflation, while trending down this quarter, was expected to move up in the third quarter, consistent with the BSP's forecast that inflation has already bottomed out, Sicat said.

In Search of Filipino Physicians of Distinction

A Partnership Program of

16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards is given to outstanding Filipino physicians whose lives and works reflect the ideals of Rizal in their profession and practice, in their love for fellowmen, the country and God.

Initiated by the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP), the award hopes to inspire physicians and non-physicians to perpetuate the memory and legacy of Jose Rizal.

The award began in 1987, when a group of the PMA component presidents from the Southern Tagalog Region conceived of giving an award to an outstanding Filipino physician of the year. The STAMP regional council, headed by Dr. Galicano G. Espiritu (Cavite), and its project director, Dr. Aquilino Castro II (Laguna), decided to give the first ever award. Later, to make the award national in scope, STAMP sought the support of the Philippine Medical Association and United Laboratories, Inc.

Once more, four outstanding physicians will take their rightful places to join the prestigious roster of honorees in the 16th DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARDS, which comes with the 100th PMA Annual Convention and the 43rd Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Lecture to be held on

Messages

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Medical Association as they hold the 16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards.

The Department of Health extends its congratulations to this year's honorees of this prestigious Award, whose lives and works reflect the ideals of our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, in their profession and practice, love for fellowmen, the country, and God.

May this occasion renew your commitment and dedication to continually raise the bar of excellence in your respective fields of expertise as you continue to contribute to our national development and a healthy

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D. MSc.
Secretary of Health
Chairman, Board of Judges

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Awards are given yearly to outstanding Filipino physicians whose life and work personify the ideals of our national hero. The Awards was originally conceived by the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP) sixteen years ago. With encouragement from the Philippine Medical Association and the able support of United Laboratories, Inc., the Awards has been transformed into one the most prestigious in the medical profession.

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the Organizing Committee headed by its Chairman, Dr. Oscar D. Tinio and all the Presidents of the PMA Southern Tagalog Region and United Laboratories, Inc. for making this worthy event possible.

My congratulations to all the nominees and awardees of the 16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards.

JOSE ASA SABILI, M.D.
President, Philippine Medical Association

In a dynamic world of borderless opportunities, it is fitting to honor the heroic commitment of outstanding Filipino doctors who dedicate themselves to the improvement of their countrymen's health and well-being. Such nobility of purpose deserves genuine appreciation and merits the highest respect for distinguished medical practitioners.

On behalf of Unilab, we wish to convey our admiration to the 16th Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awardees, and to the Philippine Medical Association for continuing to inspire us in our sustained efforts to nurture and further strengthen our valued partnership.

To the honorees, my best wishes and heartfelt congratulations!

JOCELYN CAMPOS HESS
Chairman of the Board
United Laboratories, Inc.

Celebrating the excellence and dedication of outstanding Filipino doctors, through the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards, demonstrates the proven partnership between Unilab and PMA in cultivating a high level of quality service among physicians so they can even better address Filipinos' healthcare needs.

We thus hope that in honoring outstanding doctors we not only strengthen the robust collaboration between PMA and Unilab, but we also inspire many others in the medical profession to utilize their talents and skills for national welfare.

On behalf of Unilab, my warmest congratulations to this year's

CARLOS C. EJERCITO
President & CEO
United Laboratories, Inc.

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards was conceived by the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP) sixteen years ago. The Award is given to outstanding physicians who have excelled in their profession and practice, and in recognition of their hard work, dedication, perseverance and selfless sacrifices for the improvement of the health and well being of our people.

The Award has evolved into one of the most prestigious distinctions a Filipino Physician can ever attain. At stake are honors for exemplary achievements in Community Leadership, Academe & Research, Government Services and Outstanding Clinical Practice.

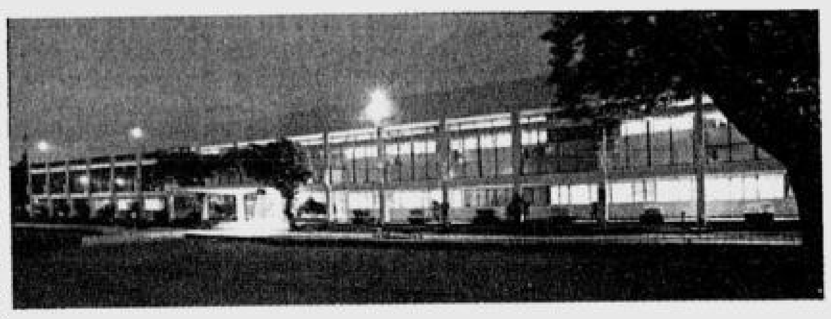
I hope and pray that the honors bestowed upon our awardees may inspire more physicians to work even harder for the better health of our people.

My heartfelt and sincerest congratulations to the nominees and

OSCAR D. TINIO, M.D.
Overall Chair
16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards
PMA Governor, Southern Tagalog
PMA Secretary General

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards
is a partnership program of PMA & Unilab,
initiated by the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical
Practitioners (STAMP).

Unilab Champions Search for Filipino Physicians of Distinction



Behind the prestigious award is the unwavering support of United Laboratories, Inc. Ever since its founding in 1945, Unilab has been working hand in hand with doctors and health care professionals to meet the health care needs of millions of Filipinos.

At the very root of its culture is the spirit of Bayanihan, a Filipino tradition of comradeship, of working hand in hand with the Department of Health as well as its health care allies-- doctors, dentists, nurses, and pharmacists, among others—for the welfare of Filipinos by providing affordable quality products and services. By championing the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards, Unilab hopes to inspire everyone—physicians and non-physicians—to nurture, to work together and, ultimately, share the fruits of our achievements.

16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards Finalists

Community Leadership

RODOLFO ROMAN T. BIGORNIA, M.D.
THELMA NAVARRETE-CLEMENTE, M.D.
CLARO M. REYES, M.D.

Outstanding Clinical Practice

JENNIFER ANN MENDOZA-WI, M.D.
TERESITA S. DE GUIA M.D.
DELFIN A. TAN, M.D.

Academe & Research

ABUNDIO A. BALGOS, M.D.
ALBERTO DAYSOG, M.D.
ARTURO C. LUDAN, M.D.

Government Service

EMERITA ANDRES-BARRENECHEA, M.D.
FAHRA TAN-OMAR, M.D.
SALVADOR P. FLORES, M.D.

2007 Board of Judges

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Secretary of Health
Chairman, Board of Judges
16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards

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Former Commissioner
Professional Regulations Commission

ARCHIMEDES R. KING
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King's Development, Incorporated

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Philippine Academy of Family

CORAZON T. LIM, M.D.
President
Philippine Society of Reproductive
Endocrinology and Infertility

REV. FR. JERRY R. MANLANGIT, O.P.
Former Regent
Faculty of Medicine & Surgery
University of Sto. Tomas

ANTONIO C. OPOSA, M.D.
Past President
Philippine Medical Association

HOWIE G. SEVERINO
Journalist/Co-Founder & Member
Board of Editors Philippine Center for
Investigative Journalism

VICENTE V. TANSECO, M.D.
Past President
Philippine College of Physicians

ARTHUR V. TOLENTINO, M.D.
Past PMA Governor
Southern Tagalog

CECILIA V. TOMAS, M.D.
Chairperson
National Transplantation Ethics

PACITA L. ZARA, M.D.
Past Executive Director
Philippine Council for
Health & Research Development

16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards Organizing Committee

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CHAIRMAN

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President, Batangas Medical Society

CERENANTE M. ROBLES, M.D.
President, Bauan Medical Society

LEONARDO M. CASTILLO, M.D.
President, Cavite Medical Society

NICOLAS B. DONATO, M.D.
President, Laguna Medical Society

PANTALEON R. JOSON, M.D.
President, Lipa City Medical Society

SIXTO RAYMOND J. SULIT, M.D.
President, Marinduque Medical Society

ARLENE SY, M.D.
President, Mindoro Occidental Medical Society

MA. GWENDULYN L. MEJICO, M.D.
President, Mindoro Oriental Medical Society

ADELITO POSAS, M.D.
President, Palawan Medical Society

LEONARDO C. HOLGUIN, M.D.
President, Quezon Medical Society

EDMUND Y. RELOJ, M.D.
President, Romblon Medical Society

NORMAN LORENZO Q. ALIDIO, M.D.
President, San Pablo City Medical Society

LILY B. MACALALAD, M.D.
President, Taal-Lemery Medical Society

GLORIA M. SILVA - VELANDO, M.D.
President, Tanauan Medical Society

ERICSON B. REYES, M.D.
President, Western Batangas Medical Society

FRANCISCO MANALO, JR.
Past President, Taal-Lemery Medical Society

DONNA JEAN ANIÑON

A challenge to students: build first Pinoy satellite

By Art Villasanta
Contributor

CURRENTLY STREAKing through space at thousands of kilometers per hour is one of the smallest satellites placed into orbit.

This small wonder is a "cube satellite" (CubeSat) with a size of only 10 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm (a family size box of Safeguard soap is exactly 10 cm long), and weighing just 995 grams. It completes a revolution of the Earth every 90 minutes and is sending signals to its controllers saying it's alive and well in the brutal environment of space.

What's amazing about this satellite is not its puny size. There are other CubeSats with the same dimensions orbiting the Earth.

What's amazing is that this satellite was made in Colombia. What's more amazing is that it was built by students from a Colombian university.

Columbia's first satellite

The "pico-satellite" Libertad-1 (Freedom-1) is Colombia's first satellite. It was launched into orbit along with 15 other satellites by a Russian Dnepr rocket last April 17 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, the world's oldest and largest launch facility. A pico-satellite is defined as a miniaturized satellite weighing less than one kilogram.

Science and satellites aren't exactly the first things that pop into one's mind when one hears the word, Colombia. Libertad-1, aside from making history for Colombia, is also helping other people think about Colombia in another, more positive way.

The students from the Universidad Sergio Arboleda in Bogota, capital of Colombia, who built Libertad-1 are understandably overjoyed at their success.

If Colombia can build its first satellite, can the second be far behind? And who will be Colombia's first astronaut?

Miniaturized satellites

Placed into orbit along with Libertad-1 were seven other miniaturized satellites built by students from US universities. The US CubeSats were made by California Polytechnic State-University (CalPoly), Stanford University and the University of Louisiana.

The United States has a CubeSat project that creates launch opportunities for universities previously unable to access space. More than 60 universities and high schools are participating in the CubeSat project.

The CubeSat project is free and is open to all universities and institutions. Any educational institution can join the project by following three steps on the CubeSat Program website.

Norway's first in-orbit satellite, NCUBE-2, was a CubeSat built by Norwegian students and orbited in 2005. NCUBE-2 monitored the movement of ships along the Norwegian coast and the movement of reindeer in southern Norway.

NCUBE-2 was supported by Europe's own CubeSat program. In 2000, the European Space Agency wanted to get more European students involved in space travel technology and space science.

It launched the "Student Space Exploration and Technology Initiative" that soon involved more than 400 students from 23 different European universities in 14 countries in making satellites. One of these satellites was NCUBE-2.

Because of the many educational institutions involved in making them, CubeSats are also known as Student Satellites or StudentSats.

First homegrown satellite

Now, that Pinoys have conquered Mt. Everest, why don't we now try to conquer the highest place in this planet—Space—by building the first homegrown Filipino satellite?

If Colombian students can build their country's first satellite, surely Filipino students can also build this country's first homegrown satellite.

Agila-1 (now an orbiting derelict) and Agila-2 can't be considered as Pinoy homegrown satellites since they were built by foreign countries.

Miniaturized satellites such as CubeSats are giving countries that can't spend millions of dollars on traditional satellites the chance to use space to advance their national interests. It cost the Norwegians $30,000 to launch NCUBE-2 on board a Russian rocket.

Brain power

We can enlist the help of the Americans, the Europeans or the Russians in making and launching the first Filipino satellite. We have the brain power. Students from our universities and colleges win awards writing gaming software and building dancing robots.

Our students can pool their brain power to build the first Filipino satellite.

Our first homegrown CubeSat doesn't need to accomplish anything fancy such as taking high-resolution photographs. Colombia's Libertad-1 was built to send signals and monitor space temperature,

The purpose of the Pinoy CubeSat building exercise is to build and orbit a CubeSat. The team experience of building a satellite is the main reward. Giving the Philippines links to the world's satellite industry will also be a valuable advantage.

Our first homegrown satellite can simply play "Lupang Hinirang" as it passes over the Philippines. That alone would make it successful—and make us proud to be Pinoys.

Or it can do something more useful such as testing sensors and equipment for the second, but more sophisticated, Pinoy homegrown CubeSat.

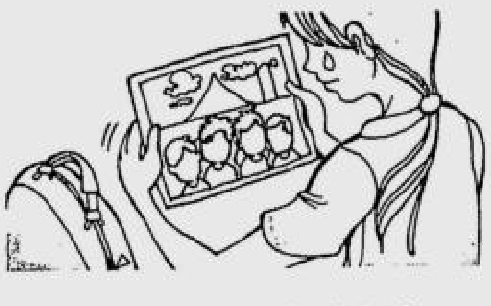
But we've got to start now. And if this government doesn't want to do it, then Pinoy students must lead the way.

The writer can be reached at art.villasanta@gmail.com

Culture shock, homesickness and a tale of two OFWs

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES



VENICE—TERESA B. IS A 28-YEAR-OLD teacher in the Philippines, now working as a shop attendant here. Eric A., 32 years old, has been working as one of the maintenance crew of a cruise liner in the Mediterranean.

The ship docked here for a two-day stay before proceeding to Athens.

Teresa left her aging parents in the Visayas a year ago while Eric left Manila to join the cruise liner crew eight months ago when his first baby was just 28 days old.

Constantly worrying

Both Teresa and Eric, as thousands of our overseas workers must be, are constantly worrying about their families back home. On top of that, they have to cope with the difficulty of adjusting to a different culture and new work environment. The stress is simply too much and they have been experiencing all sorts of symptoms such as headache, palpitations, ulcer-like pains and sleeping disorders, which they have tried to treat symptomatically with over-the-counter medications.

Our overseas workers are likely to be prone to psychosomatic disorders which may be brought about by two main factors: culture shock and homesickness. When the mind is preoccupied with any recurring and intense psychological problems, it can spill over to the body and cause actual physical symptoms, hence the term psychosomatic.

Psychological problems

Culture shock refers to the psychological problems most people experience when they move for an extended period of time into a culture different from their own. It can cause various psychosomatic symptoms such as hyper-irritability, bitterness, resentment and depression. In many instances, homesickness aggravates culture shock and vice versa. In some, distinct physical symptoms of psychosomatic illness may occur.

Aside from the ones experienced by Teresa and Eric, other commonly reported symptoms of psychosomatic illness of culture shock include compulsive eating, withdrawal, unexplainable crying, boredom, exaggerated cleanliness, irritability, hostility and inefficiency in one's work.

Perhaps one saving grace and compensatory mechanism for our overseas workers is that they usually have Filipino friends in the areas where they work in. Teresa meets every weekend with a small group of Filipina friends and it's the only day of the week when she can have a hearty laugh to drown her worries and homesickness. More than half of Eric's cruise liner are Filipinos, and many times, he would try to deceive himself mentally that he's just in the Philippines working in a big ferry boat, and he'll see his family and young son soon.

Realization of being away

Contrary to what many expect, culture shock does not hit one suddenly or immediately upon settling in a foreign land. In fact, initially, there might even be a feeling of euphoria, excited of the opportunity to travel and meet other people.

However, after the initial euphoria, the realization of being away from one's loved ones plus some feeling of disappointments over unrealistic expectations, gradually sink in. It builds up slowly over time and it may be aggravated by a series of situations and emotions which the individual may even find difficult to identify. Simply being cut off from one's familiar cultural routines may gradually build up stress in our overseas workers.

Both Teresa and Eric express some degree of frustration that they could not have a gainful employment back home where they could be near their families. Frustration and culture shock may also be interrelated but they are different from one another. Frustration is generally short-lived whereas culture shock is more sustained and long-lasting.

We should have a program which can help our overseas workers understand and prepare for culture shock and homesickness. Although many of our overseas workers may experience cultural adjustments with relative ease, an equal number may have serious problems coping with it and may even sustain lasting emotional scars if they are not able to psychologically "process" and resolve it.

National math contest winners

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN 1979, THE MATH CHALLENGE for elementary and high school students was started by the Math Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP), led by Sr. Illuminada Coronel. It was an eagerly awaited event for math fans, and I, still remember walking proudly up the stage in the Philippine International Convention Center to receive medals from Dr. Jose Marasigan, the chief judge. The Math Challenge was known as the Metro Manila Math Competition at that time.

In 1997, the Metrobank Foundation came into the picture, and forged an agreement with the MTAP and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports in the National Capital Region (NCR) to conduct the contest a year after. Metrobank made the competition more attractive by upgrading the cash awards to encourage schools and contestants. In 2000, then Education Secretary Bro. Andrew Gonzalez issued a challenge: why not expand the Math Challenge to cover the entire country?

Sure enough, in the next year, elementary students, and in 2003, high school students all over the Philippines were invited to join. With the strong support of the Dep Ed and MTAP, the contest became increasingly larger, with more participants, and more importantly, the quality of competition, especially for public schools, has improved over the years. Aside from cash prizes, winners received medals, trophies and certificates.

National finals

Last April 14, I was privileged to be chair of the board of judges for the national group finals (for Grade Six and High School Fourth Year) at the Metrobank Plaza Auditorium. The finals consisted of 10 15-second questions, five 30-second questions and five 60-second questions. The Grade Six gold medalists were MJ Guiel J. Navarro and Ronald Allan P. dela Cruz, with coach Jeanne C. Rejuso of Jose Rizal Elementary School in Pasay City. Silver medalists were Kirven DG. Molas and Topher John B. Viña, with coach Erlinda M. Talabucon of Hen. Pio del Pilar Elementary School in Makati City. Bronze medalists were Cathlyna Eden G. Saavedra and Maedeliene K. Uy, with coach Joemarie A. Bandejas of Zamboanga Chong Hua High School in Zamboanga City.

In the fourth year category, winners were Percival Byron S. Bueser and Jonas M. Cura, with coach Zenaida E. Diaz of Manila Science High School in Manila. Second placers were Gil Kenneth F. San Miguel and Euselinn B. Lumaban, with coach Flordelita G. Male of San Bartolome High School in Quezon City. Third placers were Judd Adonai Marley C. Lingan and Samantha Elaine S. Castillo, with coach Joaquina L. Birung of Cagayan National High School in Tuguegarao City.

In the Grade Six individual competition, the winners were, in this order: Carmela Antoinette S. Lao, with coach Betty Marie T. Mijares of St. Jude Catholic School in Manila; Matthew S. Ng, with coach Jennifer O. Candelario of Chiang Kai Shek College in Manila; and Sarah Jane T. Cua, with coach Lina M. Bonalos of Pangasinan Universal Institute in Dagupan City.

In the high school fourth year individual competition, Darren Mendell C. Sy, with coach Armi R. Mogro of Chiang Kai Shek got first place; followed by Christine W. S. Cheong, with coach Samuel G. Gayangos of Zamboanga Chong Hua High School; and Charlton Sean D. Gaerlan II, with coach Niño E. Martinez of Baguio City National High School in Baguio City.

Goal of the Math Challenge

Despite our low rankings in international surveys, the Math Challenge reveals that analytic ability does exist among Filipinos. Hopefully, math ability will be as esteemed in our society as say, sports prowess or entertainment talent.

During the awarding ceremonies, individual national winner Carmela Lao said, "Personally, I have dreamed of, and waited five long years for this glorious moment. I was then an awestruck Grade One student when I was awarded my first gold medals as a regional individual and team winner in this very same hall. The cash prize that came with those medals already amounted to millions for the youngster in me. The prestige of being the national math champion already beckoned to me like the light at the end of the tunnel."

"Others would ask what contribution to society have we, the math wizards, made?" she continued. "We have not manifested profound commitment to the development of the youth through exemplary competence, remarkable dedication to their work and effective educational leadership; as the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers have. We have not 'worked in the community to prevent and solve crime' as the country's Outstanding Policemen have. We have not 'gallantly preserved our nation's sovereignty' as the Outstanding Filipino Soldiers have. From that narrow perspective, they have reason to doubt our relevance because among all the projects of Metrobank Foundation, the Math Challenge differs in the sense that the recognition is not for a known contribution to the nation, but recognition of young math wizards who have risen to the challenge of honing their gifts to the highest possible level of excellence. In other words, the awards being given to us are not for any concrete contribution to the Filipino people but as encouragement for the potentials we possess. It is then our duty to translate them into actual contributions, to use our talents for our country's progress."

I would like to congratulate my beloved son Scott Chua, together with teammates Ethan Chua and Matthew Gue, with coach Myrna Layug for representing Xavier School in the Grade Two level. The team garnered first, first and second place in the division, sectoral and regional levels, respectively. Well done, and congratulations to all!

Helping people get over traumatic experiences

VILLAR

"NOW I KNOW THAT SICKNESS is all in the mind!" Dr. Imelda G. Villar said because year after year, she noticed that while others surrounding her mother were downed by the flu, coughs or colds, her mom, who was afflicted with Alzheimer's disease, never got sick.

The mind indeed is a very powerful tool that can spell the difference between health and sickness, joy or sorrow, pleasure or pain, success or failure. The mind carries the programs that can facilitate or hinder the progress of a person. Such programs can increase or decrease the options that a person thinks he or she has. When a person has very limited options, this may mean that he or she has a lot of emotional and mental baggage that disable him or her from discovering possibilities. And when one sees very limited options, one can feel trapped, depleted and unable to move.

Finding strategies

Thus, Dr. Villar, TOWNS (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) president has devoted much time and energy to finding strategies that could help people overcome programs that deter them from improving their lot in life. Her work as a clinical psychologist has helped her discover Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP), which attempts to modify the programs or the world maps of individuals.

Her experiences with thousands of clients since 1983 have led her to make revisions and amplifications on the original techniques of Richard Bandler and John Grinder and to publish her own material in the books "Hope through the NLP Magic" and "The Unconscious Mind: Our Creative Consultant." Her books have been translated to Mandarin in Taiwan, Bahasa in Indonesia and to Thai in Thailand. These books have been also reprinted in India.

Her strategies help people get over painful memories and traumatic experiences, eliminate persistent thoughts, feelings and behaviors, including physical symptoms caused or evoked by psychological factors, discover and use their talents and potentials; plan their lives in relation to their goals, values, needs, personal and environmental boundaries; manage stress holistically; and determine what their dreams are communicating and respond to their messages.

Visible effects

The effects are visible after even only one session for most people. For others with multiple and complex concerns, several sessions are needed but evidence of change is manifested after two or three sessions.

Villar is encouraged to help many people come into terms with themselves so that they may enjoy healthy and productive lives. Her books can be ordered at her clinic at 3423 Guernica St., Palanan, Makati City. Call 833-1125 or text 0917-847-5863 for appointment.

Meanwhile, as TOWNS president, she exhorts qualified women who are 45 years and below to participate in the 2007 search for the Ten Outstanding Women in Nation's Service. The nominee does not have to be well-known. What is important is that she has served her country or her fellow Filipinos in ways that would improve the quality of their lives. For inquiries call 0917-847-5863 or 831-5195 or 833-1125 or e-mail townsimelda@yahoo.com.

Export Bank unit raising ₱5B through sale of shares

Capital restructuring plan awaits SEC approval

By Elizabeth Sanchez- Lacson

EIB REALTY DEVELOPERS INC., the property arm of Export Bank, plans to raise P5 billion through the sale of shares.

The plan, according to the company, is still subject to the approval of corporate regulators.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday, EIB Realty also said it would reduce the par value of its common shares to 18 centavos from P1 a share. This will result in the reduction of its authorized capital stock to P246.2 million from P2 billion.

After this, EIB Realty said it would propose an increase in the authorized capital stock to P9 billion, consisting of 50 billion shares at 18 centavos, from P246.2 million.

Its follow-on offering of up to P5 billion worth of shares will be at the proposed new par value of 18 centavos per share.

The company also said it was calling a special stockholder's meeting to be held on July 2 to seek the shareholders' approval on the proposed capital restructuring.

Also, EIB Realty requested the suspension of trading of its shares pending the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval of the capital restructuring and the listing of new shares at the stock exchange.

The company said in its third quarter financial report that it would continue its business thrust as the real estate development arm of Exportbank.

EIB Realty is now focusing on the completion of its residential condominium project One Mckinley Place in Fort Bonifacio, a joint venture with the RFM Group's Philippine Townships Inc.

The project is expected to be completed no later than the end of 2007.

EIB Realty's medium- to long-term business plans include tapping investors through financing and property swaps to meet the mobilization fund required for its reentry into the property segment and for its additional working capital requirement.

It is also considering the acquisition of properties that will complement its overall growth strategy.

GOINGS-ON

ALI sales office in Cagayan

AYALA LAND INC. HAS INAUGU RATED ITS SALES office on the 2nd floor of Limketkai Center in Cagayan de Oro City last May 18, 2007.

The office will serve as the center for sales and inquiries for ALI's first venture in Mindanao, the upscale residential project called Alegria Hills.

The 53-ha project in Cagayan de Oro is a joint development project of ALI and the Boniao, Murillo and Borromeo families. Alegria Hills will be launched on June 9.

Improved Petron XCS

Cleaner burn, unrelenting power. These are what motorists can expect from the new Petron XCS Complete Combustion System, the first gasoline powered by a premium organic combustion enhancer.

The Complete Combustion System in Petron XCS is a breakthrough additive technology that works on the vehicle's entire fuel system to produce significantly improved performance in power, fuel economy and exhaust emissions. Made from natural materials, the organic combustion enhancer is a special additive that creates a catalytic reaction to produce a more complete burn.

AXA business index up

AXA Asia Pacific Holdings Ltd. said new business from individual financial protection amounted to Aus$18.2 million in the first quarter.

In a statement, the AXA group said the Philippines was emerging to be one of the strongest markets in Asia Pacific with new business index improving by 176 percent from year-ago due to strong growth in single premium investment-linked products via the AXA bancassurance channel.

AXA Philippines posted P5 billion in total premium income in the first quarter, up by 224 percent from year-ago level.

AXA Philippines is a joint venture between Metrobank and AXA.

APC wins award

APC-MGE, a global leader in critical power and cooling services, has received the "Best Data Center Innovation" award for its data center solutions at the recent BladeSystems Insight event in Savannah, Ga.

The event attracted more than 300 participants, including more than 100 senior-level IT executives. They ranked APC as the most innovative data center vendor ahead of other nominees including Eaton, Emerson Network Power and Mazu Networks.

Jollibee inks CBA with union

Jollibee Corp. recently signed a landmark five-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with its employee union, Kilusan Sa Jollibee, in what is known as an unprecedented negotiation in the company's history. The event took place at the Renaissance Hotel in Makati City and was led by TUCP-Kilusan representative Arthur Juego, Kilusan Sa Jollibee president Alex Rutagines, Jollibee president Ernesto Tanmantiong and Jollibee HR-labor and employee relations manager. The new CBA contains economic provisions such as an increase in the compensation and benefits package and the introduction of a livelihood program for members and their families.

LBP loans to priority sectors hit ₱80B in Q1

By Amy R. Remo

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPpines is expecting about P3 billion in loan releases this year for renewable and alternative energy projects.

Edward John T. Reyes, LandBank vice president for program lending, said this was on top of the P1.9 billion in loans released for similar projects in the first quarter of the year, of which, 78 percent went to geothermal projects.

Reyes said five hydropower projects were in the pipeline for financing, as well as a jatropha project worth P1.1 billion.

"LandBank supports these renewable and alternative projects because they are directly linked to agriculture and countryside development," said LandBank president and CEO Gilda E. Pico.

LandBank said its total credit assistance to priority sectors reached P80 billion in the first quarter, up by P2.7 billion from year-ago level. This represented 69 percent of the bank's P115-billion portfolio. In the same period last year, credit assistance to priority sectors accounted for 65 percent of the total portfolio.

Priority sectors included small farmers and fisherfolk; microenterprises and small- and medium-sized enterprises; livelihood loans; agribusiness; agri-infrastructure; and environment-related projects.

Loans for nonpriority sectors amounted to P35.5 billion.

Pico said the four-percentage point increase reflects the bank's continued commitment to channel the greater part of its resources to the agri-agra sector.

Employees' pension fund acquires ₱19.3B worth of San Miguel shares

SAN MIGUEL RETIREMENT PLAN (SMRP), which manages the pension fund of employees of San Miguel Corp. (SMC), has accumulated some 320 million shares of the food and beverage giant in the last three months through purchases worth P19.38 billion.

In an ownership report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), SMRP trustee Roberto Huang said the retirement fund bought 224.35 million class A shares (7.12 percent) at an average price of P64.2 per share and 95.7 million class B shares (3.04 percent) at P73.11 per share from March 19 to May 18 this year. The shares were acquired through four major transactions at the exchange.

SMRP's purchases included the 199.35 million Class A and B shares, or a 6-percent stake in SMC, held by the Government Service Insurance System. These were bought on April 13 at P71.50 per share.

On May 18, SMRP also acquired the 56.68 million class B shares held by companies controlled by SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. at P85 per share for P4.82 billion.

The Sandiganbayan earlier allowed Cojuangco to sell 56 million Class B SMC shares held by 11 corporations he owned to settle debts to United Coconut Planters Bank and the Bank of Commerce.

To run his businesses, Cojuangco borrowed from UCPB (P5.3 billion) and Bank of Commerce (P2.6 billion) after all his properties, mainly shares representing a 20-percent stake in SMC, were sequestered by the government in 1986. Interest charges on these loans swelled to P1.18 billion a year, Cojuangco's lawyer Estelito Mendoza said.

To help pay for the loans, Cojuangco sought the Sandiganbayan approval for the sale of a 13-percent stake in SMC .

The court on May 10 allowed Cojuangco to dispose of the shares.

UBP to raise 2007 earnings forecast

By Daxim L. Lucas

UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPpines expects its earnings to grow at a faster clip this year than it had initially forecast despite the financial drag of having recently acquired the International Exchange Bank, thanks to a strong showing in the first quarter.

Speaking to the media after the bank's annual stockholders meeting, UBP president Victor B. Valdepeñas said the bank was "revisiting" its net income target for 2007 after significant trading gains in the first three months of the year.

"Given this performance, our forecast of 20 to 25 percent [income] growth for this year will likely be revised upward," he said, but declined to give more details pending the completion of the forecast's review.

UBP earned P1.6 billion for the first quarter of this year, representing a sharp increase over the P786 million it reported for the same period in 2006. If sustained, this figure would mark a turnaround from the earnings decline it suffered after acquiring iBank last year.

For 2006, UBP reported a net income of P2.51 billion, which was lower than the 2005 level of P2.75 billion.

During the meeting, the bank's stockholders approved a plan to amend the firm's by-laws to dispense with preemptive rights requirement for shareholders, thereby streamlining future capital raising activities for the bank.

IPVG posts Q1 profit of ₱6.1M

IPVG CORP. SAID IT REGISTERED ITS FIRST ever profit in the first quarter of the year at P6.13 million, from a net loss of P15.02 million in the same period last year.

Consolidated revenue for the first quarter 2007 increased by 432 percent to P137.8 million from P25.93 million in the same period last year. Gross margin was strong at 37.1 percent, up from 36.2 percent last year.

Earnings before income tax, depreciation and amortization improved to P 11.4 million in the first quarter of 2007, from negative P 8.23 million in the same period in 2006. Consolidated operating expenses increased by 104 percent to P45.6 million from year-ago level.

"The turnaround in our financial performance marks the sustained take-off of IPVG and our business subsidiaries. We have invested in laying the foundations in 2005 and 2006. We now look forward to reaping continued returns from all of our high growth businesses." says IPVG Group president and CEO Enrique Gonzalez.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 25, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	11,300
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70	70	68	68.5	1,242,900
71	30.5	Banco de Oro Universal Bank	68	68	66.5	67	1,386,600
935	630	China Banking Corp.	905	910	905	910	2,100
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	300
124	63	Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	117	117	117	117	110,690
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	3,880,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	66.5	66.5	66	66.5	5,361,000
55	30.5	Philippine National Bank	48	48	47.5	47.5	456,500
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	64	64	64	64	6,000
39.57	13.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	33	33	31.5	32	845,400
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	82.5	84	82.5	84	103,800
66	40.55	Union Bank of the Philippines	66	66	65	65.5	2,554,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
0.85	0.6	Bankard Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.67	290,000
7.7	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	7	7	6.9	7	49,000
5	4.15	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	5,084,000
1,005.00	200	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	590	590	585	590	2,130
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,090.00	2,090.00	2,090.00	2,090.00	210
1.94	1.04	Vantage Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	1,780,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
63.5	41	First Gen Corp.	59.5	60.5	58.5	60.5	290,000
82.5	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	79	80	79	80	1,611,600
12.75	6.6	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.5	1,794,000
96	13	Manila Electric Co. A	90	90.5	89	90.5	140,300
97	20.25	Manila Electric Co. B	90	91	89.5	90	2,580,500
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6	6	5.9	5.9	9,290,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	3,018,000
2.2	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	10,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.4	1.46	1,791,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	65,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.16	2.16	731,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	7,200
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	55.5	56	55	56	276,900
1.62	0.69	RFM Corp.	1.4	1.46	1.4	1.46	1,011,000
4.05	2.3	Roxas Holdings	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	4,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	69	69	67.5	67.5	29,900
88	68	San Miguel Corp. B	78	78	76	77	36,600
22	15.5	Universal Robina Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	2,890,600
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.7	1.07	EEI Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	635,000
4.5	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	201,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	222,000
7	1.1	Republic Cement Corp.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	18,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.86	10,161,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	6	6	5.7	6	18,777,000
0.82	0.5	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	30,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.43	0.06	Picop Resources Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.05	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	42,000
0.0925	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	21,900,000
1.04	0.17	APC Group Inc.	0.9	1.04	0.89	0.99	147,610,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	113,000,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	9.1	9.1	9	9	3,878,000
0.017	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	385,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6,627,000
1.04	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.81	260,000
0.76	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	130,000
2.26	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.12	3,045,000
1.1	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	30,000
566.67	272.92	Ayala Corp.	515	515	500	505	110,110
14	7.92	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	28,200
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.55	111,000
4.75	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.45	4.5	30,417,000
9.2	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.7	1,842,000
6	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	988,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	317,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.75	12.5	11.75	12.5	589,800
2.7	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	1,000
2.6	0.8	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. A	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	1,000
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
13.25	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	11.5	12.75	11.5	12	1,044,700
4.55	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.05	2,598,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	30,000
1.26	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	30,000
0.57	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	9,230,000
445	205	SM Investments Corp.	440	442.5	435	442.5	437,930
2.2	0.6	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.76	318,000
0.67	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.58	0.64	0.50	0.62	139,660,000
0.85	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
1.56	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.56	1,030,000
0.24	0.06	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.185	44,920,000
0.55	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.76	1.84	1.76	1.82	1,696,000
0.58	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	210,000
16	8.54	Ayala Land Inc.	15.25	15.25	15	15.25	25,095,600
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.58	1.58	24,314,000
3.9	1.18	C and P Homes Inc.	3.55	3.65	3.5	3.6	1,427,000
4.7	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	48,000
4.5	1.42	City and Land Developers Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	11,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	21,000
0.58	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.51	0.56	0.51	0.55	10,690,000
0.59	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52	19,310,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.8	11,100,000
0.28	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.245	0.28	0.24	0.26	58,720,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.8	0.89	0.8	0.87	31,360,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.9	1.92	17,368,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	10,000,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	3,280,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.73	0.81	0.73	0.74	9,040,000
4.25	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4	4	3.85	3.85	52,002,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.45	313,000
0.26	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.2	37,470,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	4,870,000
3.95	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	74,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20	19.5	20	10,886,400
5.2	1.23	SM Development Corp.	4.95	5	4.9	4.9	779,000
13	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	10,579,800
0.96	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	800,000
0.28	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	55,250,000
1.74	0.3	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.34	2,335,000
		MEDIA					
32	13.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32	31	32	34,500
1.14	0.97	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.12	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	1,289,000
1,445.00	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,345.00	1,345.00	1,325.00	1,335.00	90,620
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,480.00	2,550.00	2,480.00	2,505.00	478,370
7.9	3.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.9	7	6.7	7	4,745,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.31	0.26	0.28	111,960,000
9	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.8	591,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	1,037,000
0.085	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.0725	0.085	0.07	0.08	198,400,000
0.033	0.011	Imperial Resources Inc. A	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	5,000,000
2.9	1.78	Ionics Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.14	2.16	342,000
0.0675	0.038	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.06	0.0525	0.06	0.06	18,300,000
1.84	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	218,000
0.06	0.027	Philweb Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.048	0.05	104,000,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.06	2.14	2.02	2.14	724,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.74	1.74	14,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	256,000
32	17.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29	29	28.5	29	1,394,600
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.7	3.7	7,540,000
5	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	5	5	5	100,000
0.76	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.72	0.76	0.69	0.72	33,000,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.93	0.95	3,830,000
		EDUCATION					
966.67	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	800	805	800	805	2,540
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	71,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
28.5	6.6	DTH Davies Holdings Inc.	28	28.5	28	28.5	45,500
4.75	1.84	Macroasia Corp.	4.6	4.75	4.5	4.7	4,054,000
16.75	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.75	16.25	15.5	16.25	1,041,000
30	9.5	Paxys Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	96,600
90	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	90	90	90	90	1,000
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	171,500,000
7.6	2.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,180,000
7.7	2.55	Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	114,000
21.25	5.6	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	19.5	19.5	19	19.25	5,727,900
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	51,000
4	1.62	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	1,000
2.24	0.0602	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.1	2.14	2.08	2.12	92,457,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	20,250,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	7,710,000
0.038	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	190,400,000
0.041	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.038	64,200,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	69,000,000
6.1	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	19,479,000
30	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	26.5	27	73,900
1.2	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.06	1.2	0.96	1.16	60,580,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.48	1.5	17,825,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.44	9,110,000
0.021	0.008	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	184,400,000
0.022	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	64,900,000
25.5	1.5	PNOC Exploration Corp. B	23	23	23	23	1,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	70,500
0.024	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	718,400,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

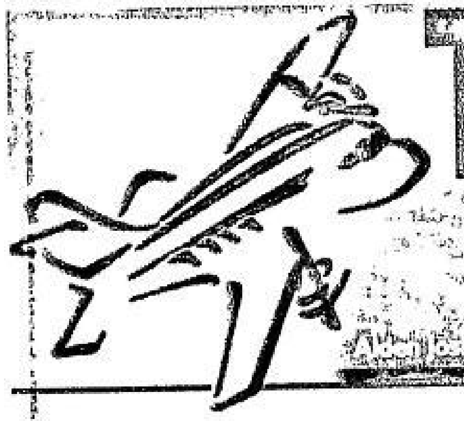
CURRENCIES

May 25, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.744602	1.000000	46.1140
Japan	Yen	0.006136	0.008241	0.3800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478109	1.985100	91.5409
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095179	0.127825	5.8945
Switzerland	Franc	0.606452	0.814465	37.5582
Canada	Dollar	0.686838	0.922424	42.5367
Singapore	Dollar	0.487177	0.654279	30.1714
Australia	Dollar	0.610930	0.820479	37.8356
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.975123	2.652590	122.3215
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198550	0.266652	12.2964
Brunei	Dollar	0.485589	0.652146	30.0731
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000114	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022701	0.030488	1.4059
UAE	Dirham	0.202833	0.272405	12.5617
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.343000	61.9311
Korea	Won	0.000800	0.001074	0.0495
China	Yuan**	0.097309	0.130686	6.0265
Argentina	Peso	0.241440	0.324254	14.9526
Brazil	Real	0.378450	0.508259	23.4379
Denmark	Kroner	0.134238	0.180281	8.3135
India	Rupee	0.018417	0.024734	1.1406
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219776	0.295159	13.6110
Mexico	New Peso	0.068705	0.092271	4.2550
New Zealand	Dollar	0.540075	0.725321	33.4475
South Africa	Rand	0.104185	0.139921	6.4523
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022363	0.030034	1.3850

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 24, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of May 24, 2007



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The Suburbia Summer

IT'S TIME TO HIT THE BEACH BUT CITY slicker that you are, you'd rather bask under the sun by the pool with a glass of Mimosa while admiring the cityscape from a skyscraper. You love the city so much, you just can't get away.

For the urban vacationers like you, Manila Pavilion Hotel offers The Suburbia Summer - a summer deluxe room package inclusive of a hearty buffet breakfast for two at only P 3,980 net per night. This summer room package gets even better because after two nights of total relaxation and comfort, we are giving your 3rd night absolutely free!

Package includes a 20 percent discount on all F&B outlets and an unlimited shuttle service that will tour you around the Metro's must-visits - Baywalk, Star City, Seaside Market, Blue Wave and Mall of Asia. Promo runs until May 31.

And to complete that summer escape, the Poolside Terrace is offering an array of frost-biting delights and grilled specialties for you to choose from: Halo-Halo special served in the traditional fountain glass or inside a coconut half shell, various ice cream flavors from the frozen dessert station and your barbecue skewer hot from the grill.

So whoever says summer isn't that fun in the city, hasn't spent it yet in Manila Pavilion Hotel. Make this summer a Suburbia Summer!

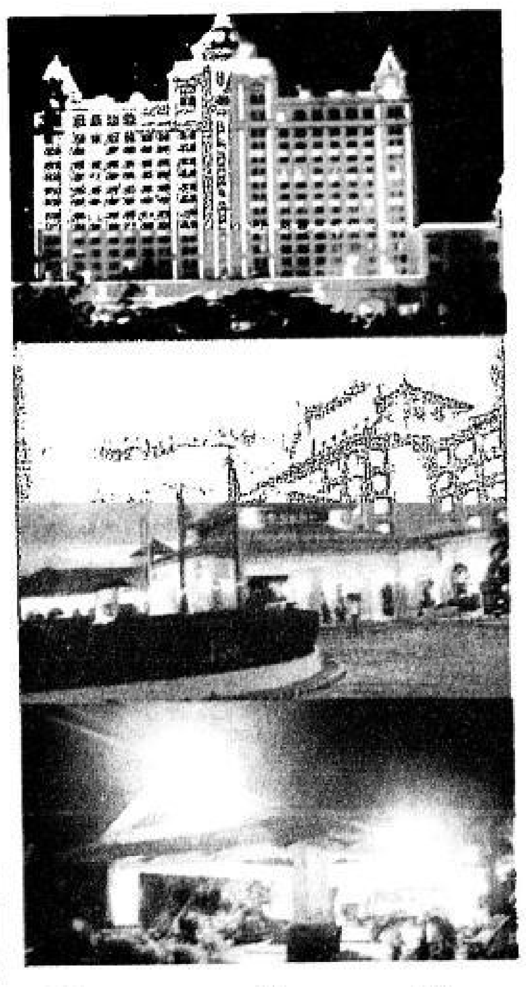
For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel 526-1212 extension 2343 or 2333.

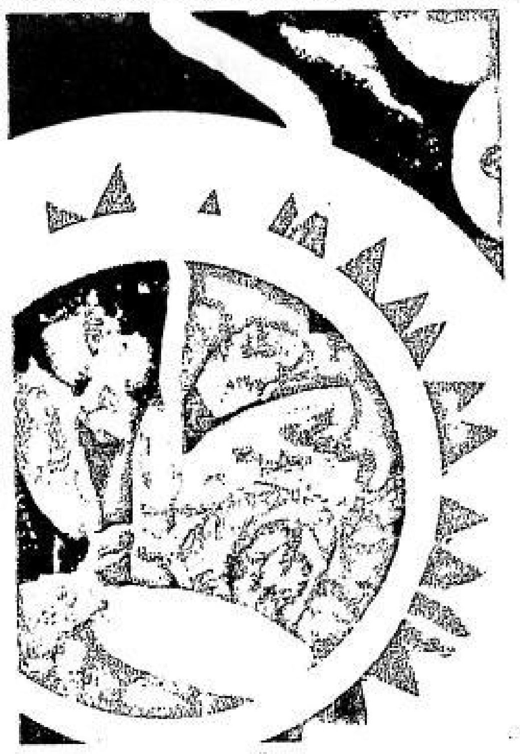
More indulgences at Waterfront Hotels & Casinos

WATERFRONT HOTELS & CASINOS, REVIVES the ultimate indulgence in luxury and comfort. Enjoy once again the privilege of first class hotel accommodation in the country's top destination spots with Indulgence 2007.

Indulgence 2007 brings back the delight of staying in any of the four Waterfront Hotel of your choice; be it at the, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan, Manila Pavilion Hotel, or at Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao for only P13,000! The Indulgence 2007 booklet contains four vouchers that each includes an overnight stay with buffet breakfast plus other exciting offers. Take pleasure once more in a dining feast at Waterfront Cebu City and Mactan's UNO, Manila Pavilion Hotels' interactive lifestyle resto Seasons and at Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao's Café Uno, along with a 15 percent discount on your food bill.

For inquiries and reservations, call the Waterfront Hotels & Casinos Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02)687-0888, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino at (032)232-6888, Waterfront Airport Hotel Casino Mactan at (032)340-4888, Manila Pavilion Hotel at (02)526-1212 and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao at (082)233-2881 or contact the nearest participating travel agency nearest you. You can also visit the website at www.waterfronthotels.net.





Negrense home cooking food festival at Café Jeepney

SAVOR THE GOODNESS OF SOUTHERN home-cooked meals as InterContinental Manila celebrates Filipino Heritage month with Negrense Home Cooking Food Festival prepared by the long-time cook of a prominent Negrense family from May 17 to June 7 at the Café Jeepney.

Take the entire family for a buffet-style lunch or dinner and sample Negrense favorites like Chicken Inasal (Barbecue Chicken), Callos de Negrenese (Ox Stripe with Chick Peas in Tomato Sauce), and Lengua Estofado (Braised Ox Tongue in Sweet, Gravy Sauce). Sopas de Ajo (Garlic Soup) and Sopas de Mariscos (Seafood Cream Soup) are interesting local takes on popular Spanish Soups. Equally refreshing and delightful are the assortment of Negrense sweets and the make-your-own Halo-halo station.

For Inquiries on the Negrenese Home Cooking Food Festival call 815-9711.

Tosca wins 'Award of Excellence'

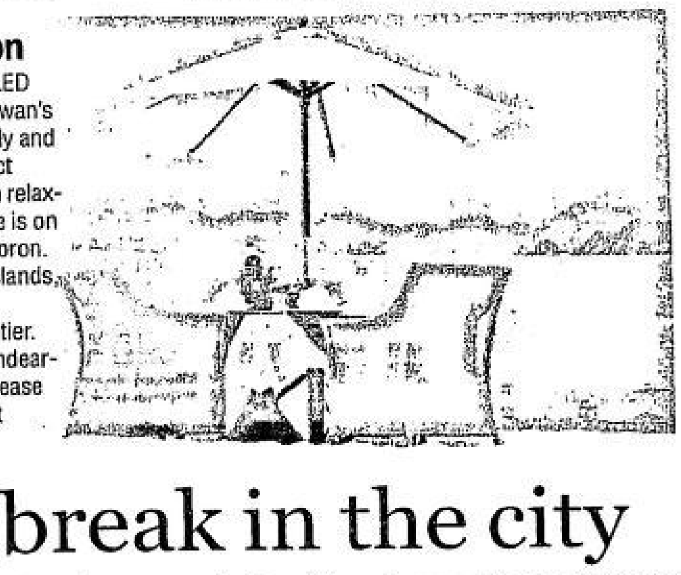
WINE SPECTATOR MAGAZINE, THE NEW York-based trade magazine that remains to be the leading authority on the world's finest wines, the best dining and travel destinations, recently bestowed the "Award of Excellence" to Tosca, the newest Italian restaurant of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati, Philippines. Pre-announced just last week, (the official presentation will be done in the August issue of the magazine) the award was presented to Tosca "for having one of the most outstanding restaurant wine lists in the world." This award coincides with the opening of Tosca just one month ago.

"We are very much honored to receive such an award because Tosca is the only restaurant in the entire Philippines to be given such a recognition by a magazine that is respected by hoteliers and people in the travel industry" said Frank Grassmann, resident manager for the Dusit Hotel Nikko. He adds "With this award, diners at Tosca are assured that the authentic Italian cuisine meticulously prepared by Chef Alessio Loddo (who hails from Sardinia, Italy) will be complimented by Tosca's award-winning Wine List."

For breakfast, lunch or dinner reservations, call (+632)867-3333. Tosca is located at the mezzanine level of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Club Paradise in Coron

A TROPICAL SHANGRI-LA NESTLED upon a coral jewel set amidst Palawan's sparkling turquoise waters. Comely and idyllic, this island resort is a perfect hideaway for those who seek both relaxation and discovery. Club Paradise is on Dimakya Island, Municipality of Coron. A part of the Calamian Group of Islands, it is situated at the Northern tip of Palawan, the Philippine's last frontier. Where possibilities are blissful, endearing and endless. For more info, please call (+632)838-4946 to 60 or visit www.clubparadisepalawan.com



Get a family weekend break in the city

IF YOU'RE PLANNING A WEEKEND GETAWAY without going too far out of the city, The Legend Villas in Pioneer corner Madison Streets in Mandaluyong City, is just the place. The old-world charm hotel boasts of spacious and functional rooms, home-style, Filipino cooking at Lola Maria Coffee Shop, a swimming pool, Wi-Fi connectivity in common areas and a lot more amenities.

Plus, the hotel is strategically located near the city's favorite shopping centers, Robinsons Mall Pioneer is a few meters away, while Shangri-la Plaza Mall, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Tiendesitas, The Fort and even the Greenhills Shopping Center are just minutes away.

With the new Family Weekend Package, a family of four can enjoy a memorable stay for as low as P2,882 nett per room per night. Valid for check-in on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and national holidays, the hotel package offers an overnight accommodation in a Superior Room for 2 adults and a maximum of 2 kids below 7 years old (sharing bed with parents). Buffet breakfast for 2 adults and 2 kids below 7 years old and complimentary use of the swimming pool and outdoor Jacuzzi.

The package also includes a 10 percent off on food and beverage, massage and business center services.

The Legend Villas is owned and managed by Legend Hotels International Corporation.

For inquiries and reservations, call Central Reservations at telephone (632)702-2700 to 04 or e-mail reservations@legendhotels.com.ph.

Isabela II Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

INVITATION TO BID

The Isabela II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO II) invites Sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the:

Supply, Delivery and Installation of a 15kV Recloser, Kyle type NOVA, 3-phase, electronically controlled automatic vacuum interrupter and with Recloser Control, Kyle type Form 6 microprocessor based.

Bidding Documents may be secured from the PBAC Chairman starting May 22, 2007 by any interested Bidder upon submission of a Letter of Intent, Company Profile and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 10,000.00. Terms and Conditions, including Technical Specifications are specified in the Bidding Document/s.

A Pre-Bid Conference wherein sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals (in separate envelopes duly marked as such) will be received by the PBAC at the Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m., June 6, 2007 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of bidders or representatives the date of which shall be set by the PBAC during the conference. Financial proposals will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security in cash or cashier's check in the amount equivalent to 10% of the amount of Bid. This bid security will be valid for at least 60 days starting from the date of bid opening.

ISELCO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or infirmities therein and accept only bid advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **LUZVIMINDA L. PANANGUI**
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. MARIANO R. DAYAG, JR.**
Acting General Manager

(PDI - May 22 & 26, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
CEBU PORT AUTHORITY
CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City
E-mail : cpa@cpa.mozcom.com
Telephone : 232-1461 to 63 • 231-6856 to 57
Fax No. : 231-6848

RE-INVITATION TO BID

The Cebu Port Authority, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, through its Disposal Committee, invites interested parties to bid on the sale of its equipment:

Items for Disposal: "AS IS, WHERE IS" located at CIP Complex, S. Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, are:

• 1 unit - 35 Tonner Level Luffing Crane	P 4,706,300.00
• 1 unit - 25 Tonner Level Luffing Crane	P 4,496,610.00
• 1 lot - compose of 3 units 25 Tonner Forklift	P 1,383,725.00

The bid documents will be available for issuance until May 31, 2007 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00)** through the Disposal Committee located at the ground floor of Cebu Port Authority Main Office.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **June 8, 2007 10:00 A.M.**, CPA Conference Room.

All bids should be submitted to the Disposal Committee **on or before 2:00 P.M. of June 19, 2007** at the CPA Conference Room. All bids submitted shall be opened in public view immediately after the lapse of the deadline.

The bidder's bond shall be required in the amount equal to 10% of the minimum bid price set by CPA in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check acquired from a reputable bank within Cebu City.

CPA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality / defect therein, and to accept such bid as may be deemed most advantageous to the government.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Perlita G. Jumapao at Tel. No. 232-1461 loc 27.

(Sgd.) **MARIO G. TAN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--May 26, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT
ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
CORPORATE OFFICE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
Tel. (632) 922-3757 / 922-2969 • Fax (632) 921-2887

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, through its funds intends to apply the sum of **P6,130,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Installation of two (2) new Passenger type Elevators denominated as Contract No. Elev.-01. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The MWSS now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply and Installation of two (2) new Passenger type Elevators. Delivery and installation of the GOODS including testing, commissioning, completion and turn-over is required within **two hundred forty (240) calendar days** from the receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Eligible Biders as enumerated under Clause IB 5.1 of the ITB. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the MWSS Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. starting May 25, 2007.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P3,000.00. The method of payment will be in Cash or Manager's Check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **MWSS** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 14, 2007** at 10:00 A.m. at the Senior Deputy Administrator's Conference Room, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **June 28, 2007** not later than 2:00 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
    a. Cash, Manager's Check or Stand By Letter of Credit in the amount of P65,000.00
    b. Bank Guarantee in the amount of P97,500.00
8. Bid opening shall be on **June 28, 2007** at 2:30 P.M. at the Senior Deputy Administrator's Conference Room, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Late bids shall not be accepted.
10. The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Administrator Lorenzo H. Jamora
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Diliman, Quezon City, 1105
Tel./Fax No. 922-2568; Tel. No. 928-5691/922-2969

(Sgd.) **LORENZO H. JAMORA**
Administrator

(PDI – May 19 & 26, 2007)

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 3491 OF 2007

BETWEEN

Guingona Norma Pajunar also known as Norma F. Pajunar	**Petitioner**
and	
Nicolas T. Adiong	**Respondent**

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT A DIVORCE PETITION has been filed against the Respondent Nicolas T. Adiong. The said Respondent whose address is unknown may apply to the Family Court Registry at M2 Wanchai Tower, No. 12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong for a copy of Petition. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Registrar

(To be advertised once in Philippine Daily Inquirer, an English Newspaper publishing and circulating in the Philippines.)

(PDI--May 26, 2007)

JOB Market

San Jose Academy Batch '86 reunion

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS 1986 OF SAN Jose Academy (Navotas) will hold a grand reunion on June 2 (Saturday) at Pescadores Restaurant in Malabon City. Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. For details contact Dean Estudillo (9000272)/Andy Trinidad (6881651) / Ruiza Penano (2839339)

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Amador Co Golamco

May 10, 1918 - May 21, 2007

He will be deeply missed by his children and their spouses: **Anthony** and **Elizabeth**, **Vivencio** and **Isabel**, **Darlice** and **Edgar Chua**, **Felly** and **Panfilo Castro, Jr.**; grandchildren: **Leland**, **Jal** and **ToniRose**, **Stephanie** and **Sebastien**, **KV**, **Allan** and **Melody**, **Griffin** and **Nina**, **Gared**, **MariCris**, **PJ** and **Jenna**; and great-grandchildren: **Augustin**, **Lucas**, **Zachary**, **Gabriel**, **Ryan** and **Marcus**.

Funeral Mass will be held at 9am on Sunday, May 27, 2007 at Chapel A, Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed.

For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

HILARION LIWAG ESQUIVEL

peacefully joined our Lord
on May 22, 2007 at the age of 79.

His wife **NONA**; children **Franz, Roni & Manet, Maia, Jimmy & Gigi, Aisa & Thomas**, and **Jan & Evelyn**; grandchildren **Timmy, Amanda, Rianne, Samantha, Sydney, Jake** and **Marcus** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains were cremated on May 22, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

There will be a Holy Sacrament of the Mass on Monday, May 28, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. at the Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

"SACRED HEART OF JESUS
BLESS ME TODAY, BLESS MY FAMILY,
BLESS ALL THE PEOPLE WHO
ARE SICK, AND BLESS ALL THE
PEOPLE WHO SHALL DIE TODAY..."

OUR DEAREST DAD

COL. RAYMUNDO D. ESTUESTA (RET.)

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE-FLYING SCHOOL CLASS 55-A

Peacefully joined our dearest Lord
on May 24, 2007 at the age of 75.

His wife, **Elizabeth** (†), children, **Mary Grace**, **Richard** and **Marah**, relatives, friends and townmates in Dasol, Pangasinan request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz Sucat.

Interment will be on May 29, 2007 after the 8 am Mass at the Manila Memorial Sucat.

Hotel, resort projects ride RP tourism boom

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS IN HOTEL, RESORTS AND tourism-related projects are the next to surge in the wake of the boom in office space for business process outsourcing and in residential condominiums, according to a real estate service firm.

Trent M. Frankum, general manager of CB Richard Ellis Philippines Inc., said current industry trends indicate pent-up demand for investment-grade projects amid the rise of the local tourism industry.

"We are getting a lot of investment inquiries for hotels, resorts and even golf courses from European, Middle Eastern and Korean investors," Frankum said in a briefing.

He cited a statement of the Philippine Travel Agencies Association that some half a million foreign tourists were diverted to other destinations in 2006 due to lack of accommodation facilities in, as well as flights to, most of the key tourist spots in the country.

This resulted in lost revenues estimated at about $400 million, Frankum said.

He also cited industry reports that accommodation capacity in Boracay and Cebu were already maxed out, as foreign arrivals grew at a compound annual rate of 20.8 percent from 2000 to 2006.

Last year, the Department of Tourism said arrivals reached 2.84 million, growing 8.4 percent over the previous year.

"In terms of the number of hotel rooms, the Philippines posted a record 13,939 rooms in 2006, or 9.9 percent higher than in 2005," Frankum said. "However, these additional hotel rooms are still not enough to meet the growing demand."

The challenge for the property industry is to be able to present to investors various options which meet their investment criteria, Frankum said.

He added that industry players should consider the development of areas other than current tourist hot spots like Boracay and Palawan.

DOF questions grant of tax perks to upscale housing developers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS QUESTIONING the grant of fiscal incentives to property developers engaged in mass housing projects for middle-income earners.

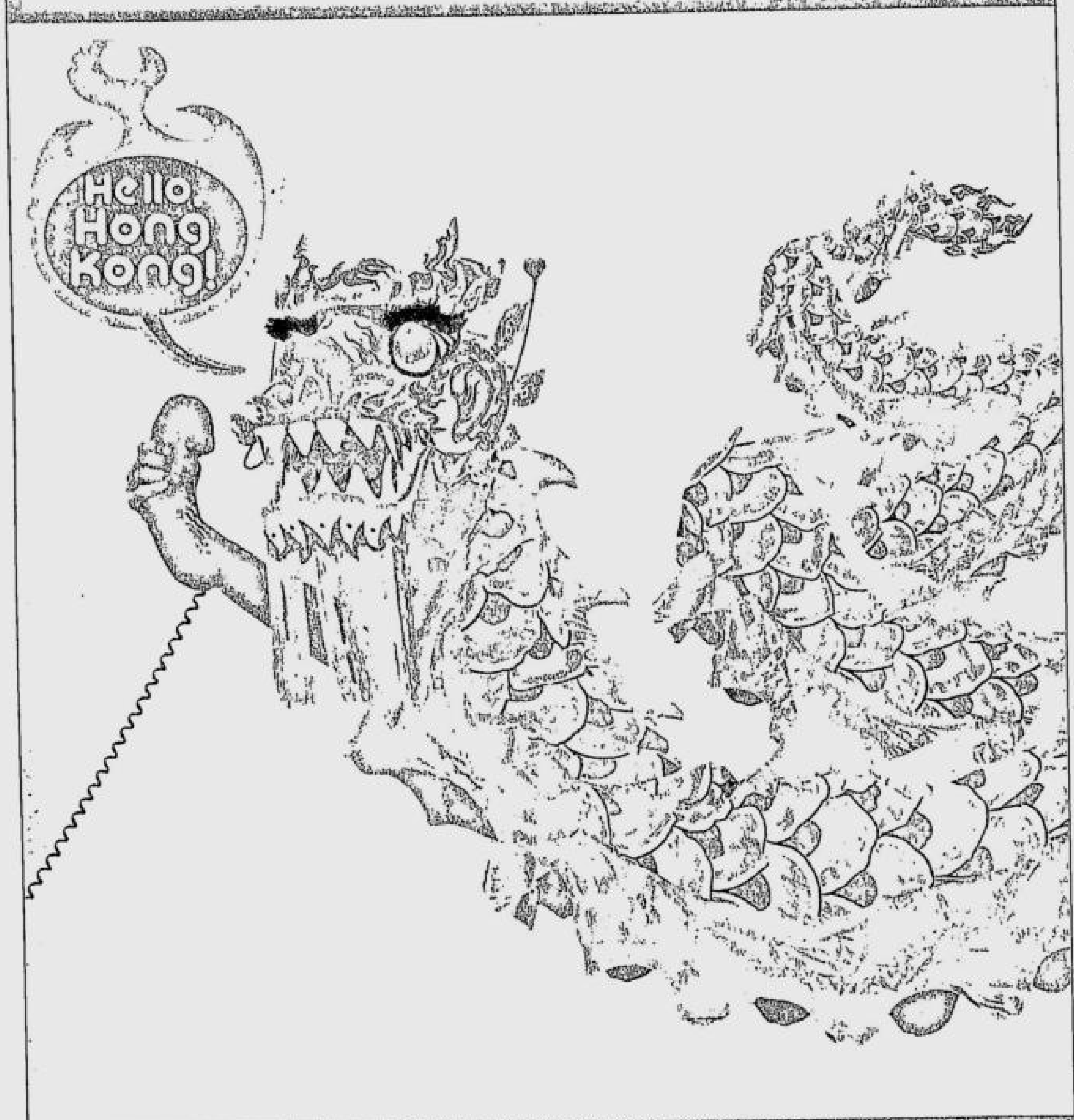
While it is rational to grant tax exemptions to developers of socialized housing projects costing P300,000 or below per unit, giving out the same privileges to businesses engaged in mass housing projects of at least P3 million per unit would be unnecessary, a ranking finance official said.

"Housing projects worth at least P3 million per unit are already for middle to high-middle income earners," the finance official said. "Why should developers catering to these clients still be given assistance?"

The source said the Department of Finance would study how to rationalize the granting of fiscal incentives to businesses engaged in mass housing projects. The DOF would then submit it to the Board of Investments for inclusion in the drafting of the implementing guidelines of the 2007 Investment Priorities Plan (IPP).

The IPP is a list of business activities that the government considers a priority. The development of mass housing falls under "infrastructure," which is part of the 2007 IPP. Business activities included in the IPP are granted various perks, such as income tax holiday for a maximum of six years and duty-free exemptions.

The finance official said the government should not be careless in the granting of incentives to minimize unnecessary losses in revenue.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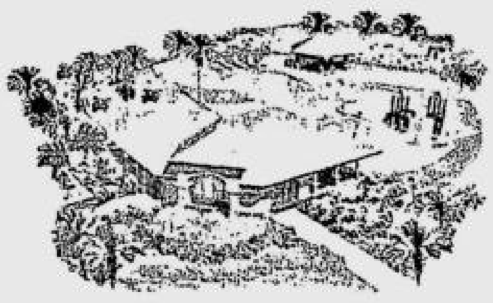
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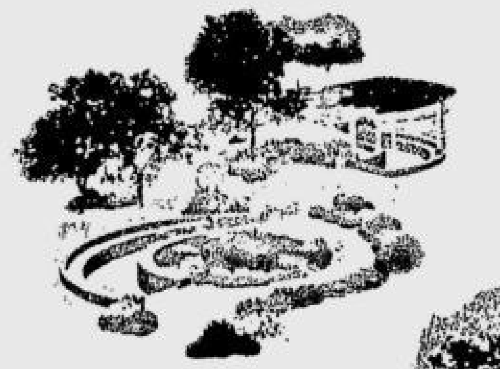
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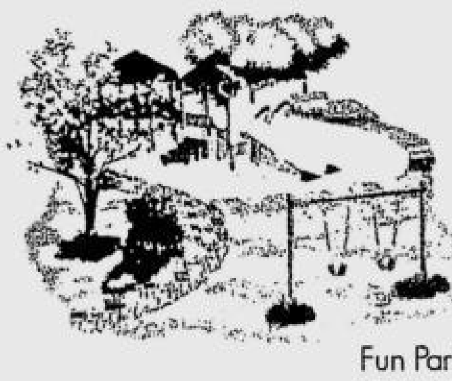
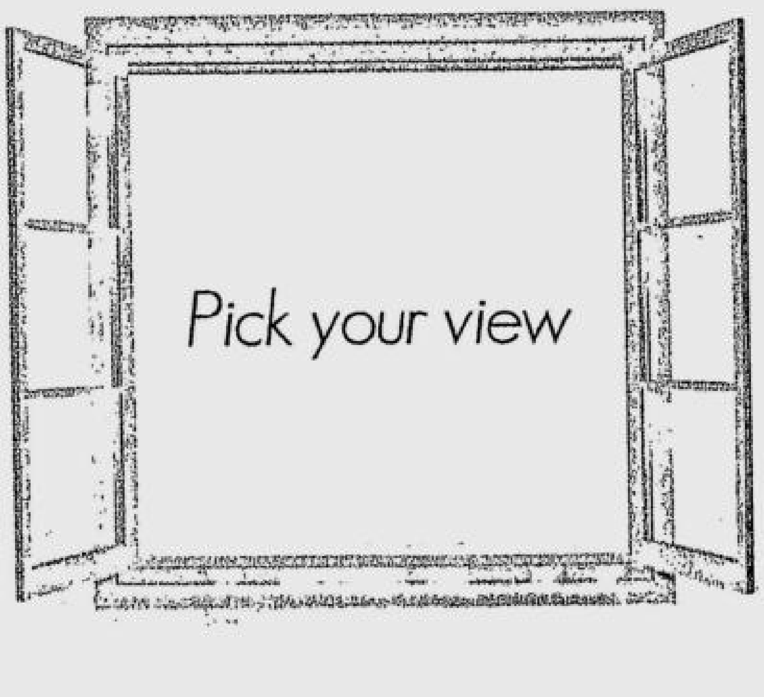

Fun Park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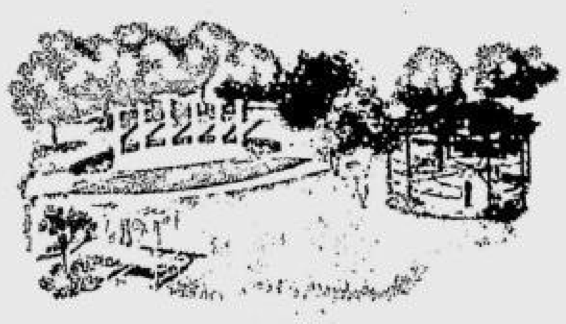
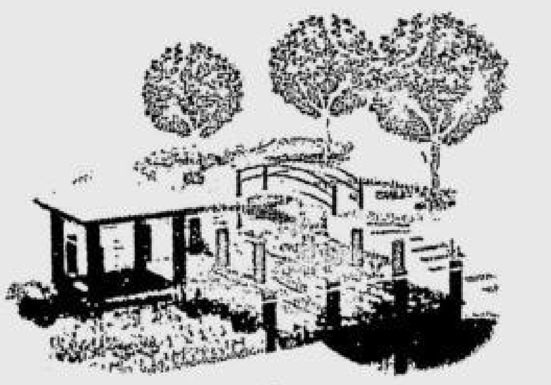

Nature's Orchestra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PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

The ideal property for overseas professionals, OFWs

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of two parts)

LOS ANGELES—Ethel E. Bartolome, 41, who came from Caloocan City, owns a house and lot in Buena Park, California. She has called it home for 7 years now.

She used to own a duplex at Huntington Beach for three years. She recently bought a one-bedroom, 42-sq-m condominium at the South of Market at the Fort in Taguig for investment and retirement purposes. Instead of staying two weeks in a hotel every time she took an annual vacation to the Philippines (paying P1,600 to P3,000 a day for hotel stays), she would rather spend it on a condominium that she could eventually own.

Although she plans to buy a house and lot in Tagaytay in the future, The Soma condominium at the Fort would continue being an ideal abode for future empty nesters like her and husband Jesus, 42. Their three children have said they would not settle with them in the Philippines. Ethel is an office manager of a skilled nursing facility for elders, while Jesus is a lead operator of a printing company.

"My husband wants to go home every six months and he can't wait to retire in the Philippines. He has been working since he was 18 here in Los Angeles."

Prime choices

The Fort and Tagaytay are the Bartolome's prime choices here in the country. Ethel said she had seen other condominium units in Makati and in Manila , which would be near her in-laws. She was not impressed because the small unit sizes were also not fully furnished.

Ramon Villaverde, 47, who's into the tourism business, resides in a house and lot property at Anaheim, California. A native of Lukban, Quezon, Ramon has lived in the States for 22 years. Although he tries to visit the Philippines every other year, he has no plans to retire in his own country because of health insurance considerations. If given an opportunity, however, he said he would love to buy a low-maintenance condominium unit in Metro Manila, but not to stay in. That would be primarily for investment purposes.

His wife Brenda, 44, a caregiver and former hotel supervisor, has also lived in America for 20 years. Being used to the American lifestyle, she says Philippine politics, chaotic street life and high density of urban population prevent her from deciding to retire in the country. Otherwise, she would have preferred buying a condominium unit as an investment in Filinvest, Alabang area or anywhere there would be direct access to malls and away from the central business districts.

She considers Makati as "too saturated, too crowded."

"The Makati brand for me is too common. Almost every one would like to choose Makati. I get a feeling that everyone wants to be there."

Both the Bartolomes and Villaverdes would have loved some advice from property analysts about their choices. INQUIRER Property e-mailed two property analysts and asked them what overseas professionals' property choices really were.

Emerging areas

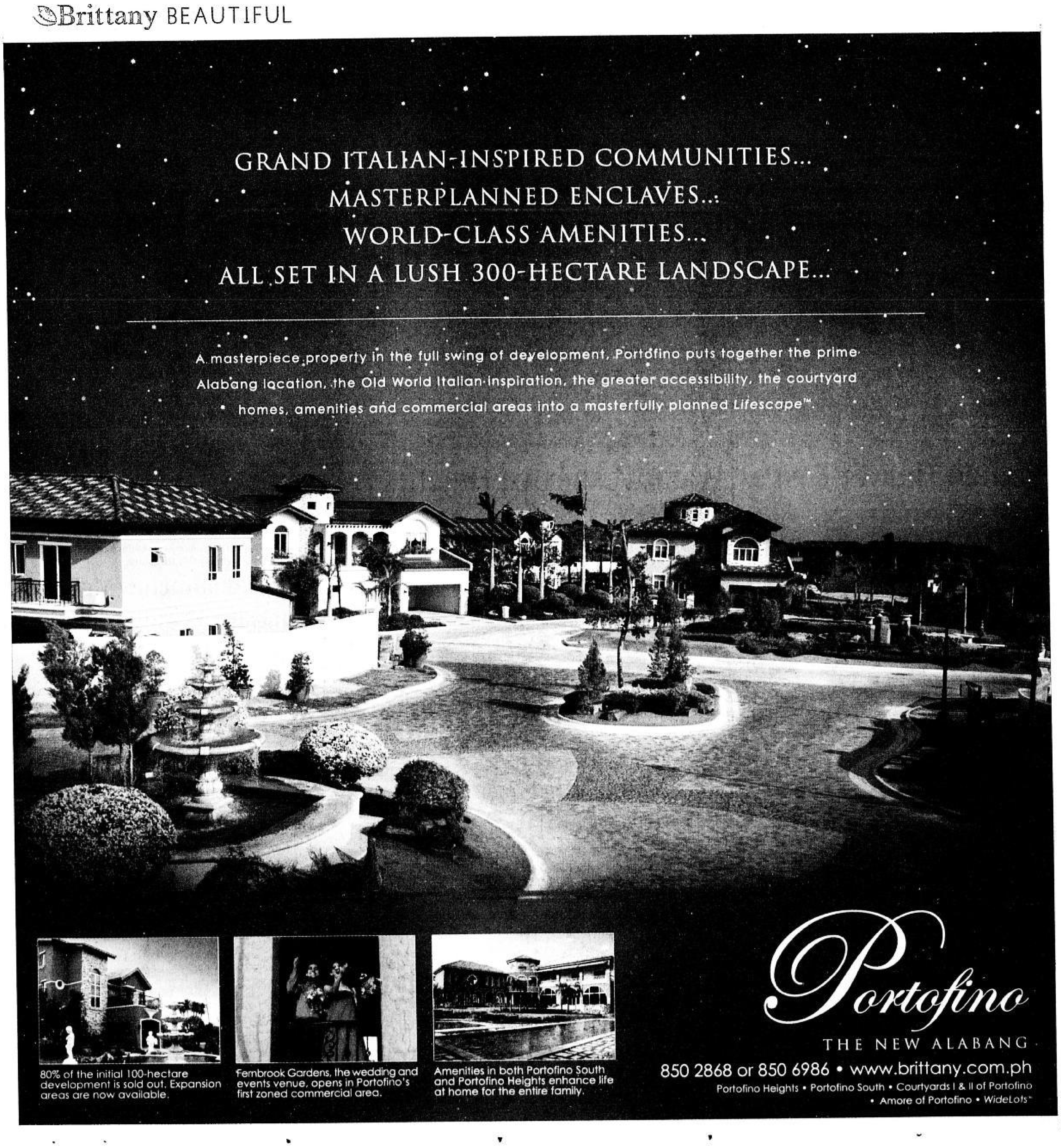
Richard Raymundo, director for research and consultancy of Colliers International, says overseas professionals and OFWs who are looking at the condominium market, would look at the usual choices such as the Makati CBD, Fort Bonifacio, Rockwell, Ortigas and Eastwood.

Raymundo, however, says that recently, new locations have been emerging due to redevelopment efforts. "These are the Bay Area, Villamor, Pioneer area, Araneta Center and the Edsa corridor."

He cites that choices of property hunters would be based on:

- **Location**—Is it near work or school?
- **Budget**—Some locations are relatively cheaper than the others.
- **Level of facilities and amenities**—Being related to the budget factor, some locations offer more facilities for a higher tag price. Raymundo stresses that it would still be more of a professional preference for prospective buyers overseas.

"This is more of a personal preference. The decision for choosing a house and lot for an OFW is mainly dictated where he/she is based. The tendency is that they would buy a property where relatives and family members are, as this is due to familiarity with the place," Raymundo says.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Fembrook Gardens, the wedding and events venue, opens in Portofino's first zoned commercial area.

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Robinsons Land to build premier Tagaytay community

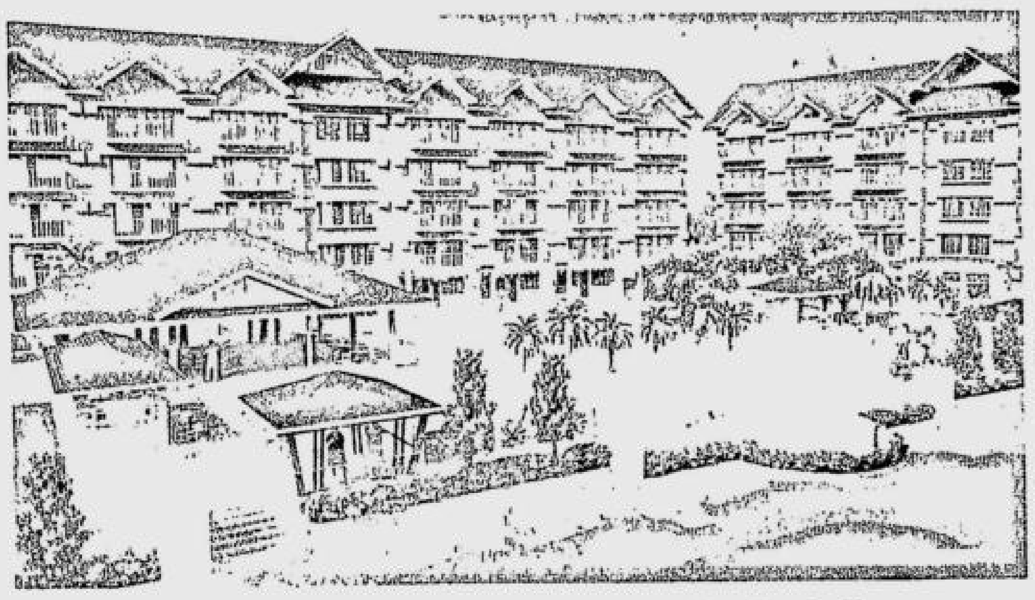
By Charles E. Buban

FOLLOWING THE HUGE SUCCESS OF Bloomfields Tagaytay, Robinsons Communities, the housing and land development division of Robinsons Land Corp., is set to launch another upscale residential project within Cavite's famous vacation getaway.

Located in a 9,365-square-meter prime property at the corner of Mahogany avenue and Mayor's Drive, The Wellington Courtyard will feature five low-rise condominiums designed for homebuyers who prefer taking up permanent residence in Tagaytay City.

"A growing number of homebuyers now look at Tagaytay City as a place to set up a permanent residence and not just a vacation hideaway or a weekend retreat," said Marilu Alferez, Robinsons Land senior vice president for housing division and general manager.

Alferez added that families wanting to stay permanently in Tagaytay City will find that the city offers some of the best dining and recreational destinations in the country not to mention that it's near several top educational institutions located in Cavite and Laguna.



THE WELLINGTON Courtyard adopted an "American country" setting that features a European-inspired open central courtyard.

Cool, windy climate

Being located in the province's highest point (at 600 meters above sea level), The Wellington Courtyard will take advantage of Tagaytay City's cool and windy climate.

A joint-venture project of Robinsons Land and Omico Corp., The Wellington Courtyard adopted an "American country" setting that features a European-inspired open central courtyard.

"Our future residents will definitely enjoy a generous portion of open space—where they will have the privilege of enjoying first-rate amenities, including a multipurpose clubhouse, adult and kiddie swimming pools, multipurpose open court, playground space, picnic ground, promenade, gazebo, bird's fountain and administration office," Alferez added.

Each of the building will have dominant earth colors, warm hues, terracotta and wood finishes.

Privacy, exclusivity assured

"Privacy and exclusivity is also assured since there will be seven units per level and a total of only 34 units will be available per building," Alferez said.

Prospective homebuyers can choose from the basic one- or two-bedroom flat to the spacious two-bedroom promenade and two-bedroom penthouse loft.

The 53.20-sq-m, two-bedroom promenade units located at the ground level is situated just right across the courtyard, thus offering future residents a spectacular view of the open space as well as easy access to the amenities.

The inner two-bedroom units will have a 44.8-sq-m area while those in the corners will have 53.2-sq-m area. The most spacious would be the bi-level penthouse units, with the three-bedroom units offering 75-sq-m area for the inner and end units while corner units will offer 83.4 sq m.

Alferez also informed that there will be unveiling of The Wellington Courtyard today at Gloria Jean's Coffee Shop inside Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas from 6 p.m to 10 p.m.

Landco Pacific to develop Escudero estate into residential and tourism town

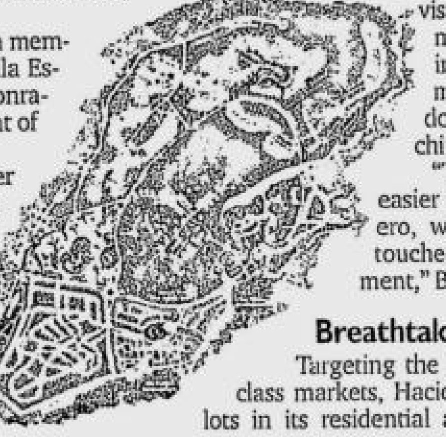
HIGH-END PROPERTY DEVELOPER LANDco Pacific Corp. has invested P10 billion for the development of Hacienda Escudero, a residential-resort and leisure tourism town built around the landmark tourist destination, Villa Escudero.

Landco Pacific earlier signed a memorandum of agreement with Villa Escudero president and founder Conrado Escudero for the development of the huge estate.

"Landco will be the developer of the Hacienda Escudero and the Escuderos will remain as its landowners," explained Landco Pacific president Alfred Xerez-Burgos.

Hacienda Escudero lies within the Escudero's 415-hectare coconut plantation that spans the municipalities of San Pedro, Laguna and Tiaong and Dolores, Quezon.

It is a two-hour drive away from Manila and is also accessible through Rizal via Antipolo.



Attractions

"What makes it different from other developments," Burgos said, "is that it will have attractions and amenities that give property developers and visitors a taste of Philippine history and culture, very much like that promoted by Villa Escudero."

Several features are currently being fleshed out to realize this vision. Houses and commercial establishments inside the development, for one, are being done in distinct local architecture.

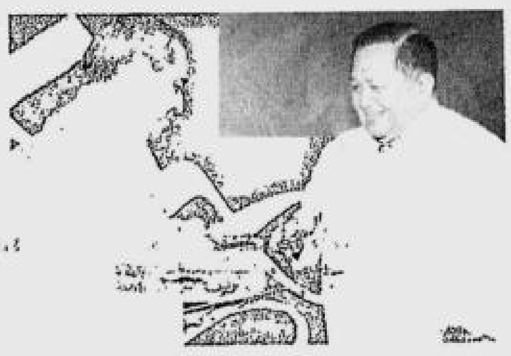
"They will also have easier access to Villa Escudero, which will remain untouched during the development," Burgos said.

Breathtaking views

Targeting the high-end and middle-class markets, Hacienda Escudero's prime lots in its residential area are from 650 to 1,000 square meters. They are set against breathtaking views of three mountains—Mounts Banahaw, Malarayat and Cristobal.

"Each homeowner is guaranteed an unobstructed view of these mountains every day," Burgos said.

Hacienda Escudero's commercial area, meanwhile, offer numerous dining and shopping options.



LANDCO Pacific president Alfred Xerez-Burgos and Villa Escudero president and founder Conrado Escudero

"All the features and amenities inside Hacienda Escudero are geared toward giving people something that they will be truly proud of being a part of," Escudero said.

Landco Pacific is a multiproduct developer of high-quality residential resorts, leisure farms, residential developments, shopping centers and CBDs, and memorial parks. It continues to provide superior value in its developments and is widely recognized as a benchmark for innovative and outstanding lifestyle products that revolutionize the way we live.

Mango Harvet Fest at Ayala Westgrove Heights

RESIDENTS enjoy a relaxing day of cool breeze, sprawling views and freshly harvested mangoes picked from their very own orchard.

THE SOLID FUSION OF NATURE AND COMmunity was expressed well through the first-ever Ayala Westgrove Heights Mango Harvest Festival held last Easter Sunday. Making the most of the abundant mango season in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, close to a hundred families who now reside at this mango-orchard-turned-premium residential community shared a fine summer day celebrating the sweet, golden fruit.

The subdivision's Central Park was a terrific setting for the day's events, its lush and spacious greens perfect for pitching tents. Brunch was served here after a morning Mass and was also used for the children's horse rides and party games. Nearby, village workers weighed kilos of mangoes under the mango trees for the residents as they stood in line and shared recipes that highlight the fleshy fruit. Most of the trees heavy with luscious fruits can be found in this park and along the subdivision's roads.

According to the village association, to ensure that the fruits maintain their quality, they are subjected to a 10-minute heat treatment. The mangoes are given a bath in warm water to inhibit the growth of insects and other creatures attracted to the sweet produce. The fruits are then allowed to ripen naturally and never with the aid of lye or "kalburo."

Promoting green thumbs

A former agricultural area, the property was transformed into first-rate village that promotes green thumbs. The residents' homegrown herbs are testament to this, as are the baskets of freshly picked mangoes the families and their guests brought home to enjoy.

With over 1,500 mango trees producing three varieties of mangoes, it is no stretch to say that life in Ayala Westgrove Heights is sweet. And just like the golden fruits that grow in this unique orchard, the gracious residents of this vibrant community enjoy fresh air, bright sunshine and a healthy environment. Every day, they are reminded that they have chosen the ideal place to raise their families.

Camella Terrassa offers privacy, serenity, value

CAMELLA HOMES & COMMUNITIES RIGHTfully claims a leading role in the massive task of "housing the nation."

In the past 30 years, Camella has built over 150,000 homes in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, making it the country's single largest homebuilder, one providing affordable, high-quality residences and masterplanned communities to Filipinos who have persevered to be able to live in their very own homes.

A prime example of a Camella community built for hardworking Filipino families is Terrassa in Imus, Cavite. As a masterplanned development located on Jica Road which links two highways— Daang-Hari and Mambog—Terrassa provides residents with privacy and serenity, and overall, value for money.

The community is only a short distance from the metropolis, about a 20-minute trip from Alabang and approximately a 30-minute drive from Makati, thus offering convenience and proximity.

As for value, Camella Terrassa boasts solidly designed homes that are built to last, in a self-contained community where living is meant to be a real pleasure for residents. They can be sure that their needs and wants have been anticipated. Attention to detail is evident in the planning and development of Terrassa, with its distinctive Spanish Mediterranean architecture, delightful landscaping which create lovely settings for homes, and amenities and conveniences for residents' leisurely and social activities that include a multipurpose hall, a swimming pool, parks and a playground, and gardens integral to the landscape, as well as open spaces.

5 model homes

There are only 351 lots available at Terrassa, which has five model homes to choose from—Bettina, Carmela and Drina in the Classic series, and Florida and Hermosa in the Prima Alta series: Bettina, at P1.7 million, has a floor area of 62.5 sq m on an 88-sq-m lot, two bedrooms, one toilet and bath, family hall, balcony and carport; Carmela, at P1.8 million, has a floor area of 64 sq m on an 88-sq-m lot, three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, balcony and carport; Drina, at P2.3 million, has a floor area of 81 sq m on a 99-sq-m lot, three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, maid's room, balcony and carport; Florida, at P4 million, has a floor area of 131 sq m on a 108-sq-m lot, three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, family hall, maid's room, balcony and carport; and, Hermosa, at P5.3 million, has a floor area of 181 sq m on a 150-sq-m lot, three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, family hall, maid's room, balcony and carport.

Terrassa is one development that is fulfilling Camella Homes & Communities' corporate mission of building "a roof over every Filipino's head." As Camella's management team sees it, the company's task is one of helping Filipino families to own quality homes, based on a deeply felt respect for their dreams and aspirations.

The Age of Esthetics

DESIGN DIMENSION

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

ENHANCING A PRODUCT through good design is one of the major challenges of the visual artist today. His role is to marry design and value so that the visual impact of the product will merit its purchase. My favorite management guru, Tom Peters, says that we are now in the "Age of Esthetics," and because advancements in technology have commoditized goods, design has become the prime factor for the success of a product.

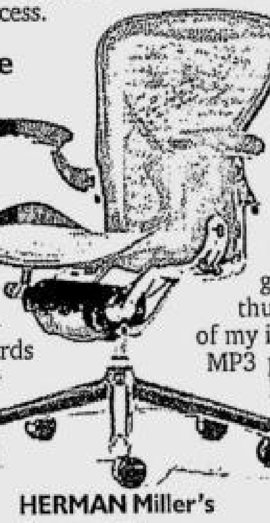
Danish audio-video system design group Bang and Olufsen has always been mindful of this maxim. Their products have always exhibited elegant, timeless and clean lines. Their hardware and functions are innovative. Recently, B&O tied up with Samsung to produce a beautiful and compact handphone called "Serene." It also tied up with 3M to design—I'd never have guessed—a stethoscope! Too bad B&O has never been a great performing company. It has always been ahead of its time in terms of presenting products with high visual impact.

High-style design

Korean car company, Kia, has jumped into the high-style design bandwagon as well. Last year, it appointed Peter Schreyer, designer of popular "cult" vehicles like the Audi TT and the new Volkswagen Beetle, as its chief design officer. This not only shows the company's commitment to enhancing its vehicles, it more specifically demonstrates its understanding of what sells a car—a strong emotional dimension to its brand expressed through an engaging design. After revolutionizing the look of Audi cars in the early 1990s, Schreyer paved the way for Audi to continually enjoy a rise in sales and a reputation for being a leader in automotive design. Recently, I saw a photo of the new 2007 Audi TT and marveled at how the company has outdone itself. The car has just won a design award—a guarantee of its financial success.

Best-selling office chair

In 1994, US furniture maker Herman Miller launched what has become a design icon: the Aeron chair. This chair has won numerous design awards and is part of the New York Museum of Modern Art's 20th Century Design Collection.



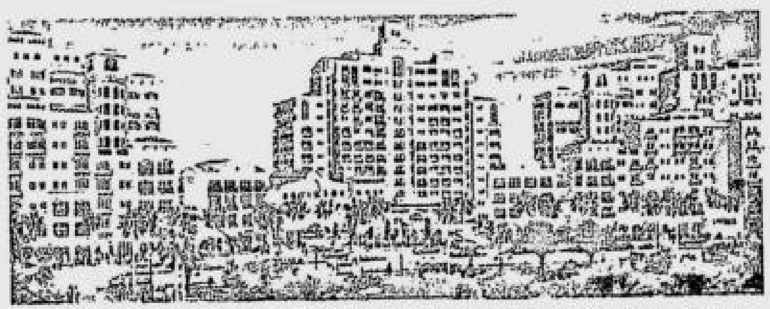
HERMAN Miller's Aeron chair

"Biomorphic" in form, it takes the hue of a living organism with curvilinear lines. Its mesh upholstery hugs the body. It is adjustable for lumbar depth, lumbar height, tilt tension, seat-pan angle, seat height, armrest angle and armrest height. It comes in three sizes, suitable for practically every one.

I have an Aeron chair myself, and for the past five years I've enjoyed all its features. More than that, this piece adds to the visual value of my work room. I feel like a winner when I sit on that chair. The real winner though is Herman Miller: the success of the Aeron office chair drove his company's profits up. To date, this piece of furniture remains the best selling office chair ever.

These days, more and more companies are employing outstanding designers to create for their brands. German bathroom faucet manufacturer HansGrohe has Italian designer Antonio Citterio designing its new Axor range. Philippe Starck has designed lighting for Flos, seats for Kartell and cutlery and toothbrushes for Italian brand Alessi. He has also designed slippers for Puma. Other consumer brands like Samsung, for example, have no star designers on board, but have their in-house team develop impressive designs that win them their significant share of the market.

Although sometimes difficult to quantify in very concrete and tangible figures, the success of consumer goods is strongly attributed to its design. As Apple's Steve Jobs said, "Design is the fundamental soul of a man-made creation." When it elicits passion, it brings about a very powerful emotional connection that drives one to possess and to purchase. When I look at the glazed covers and thumb-driven controls of my iPod, Apple's big hit MP3 player, it clearly illustrates to me that the man knows—more than many others—what he is talking about.



MEGAWORLD expects P2.7 billion in revenues from its new Italian-themed McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate.

Megaworld launches McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate

PROPERTY GIANT MEGAWORLD Corp., the Philippine leader in residential and business process outsourcing (BPO) building development, recently launched its Italian-themed McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate in Fort Bonifacio.

Megaworld FVP Noli Hernandez announced that the McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate will feature seven Tuscan-Mediterranean-style clusters on a 1.5-hectare prime lot on Upper McKinley Road.

P33-B investment

The picturesque enclave is part of the 50-hectare McKinley Hill township project, in which Megaworld earlier announced it will invest P33 billion. It will invest P12 billion over the next few years to make McKinley Hill a haven for BPO companies, P3 billion to develop the project's commercial component, and P18 billion for the residential component.

The fully integrated McKinley Hill community will feature BPO buildings, retail spaces, commercial offices, embassies, international schools, a hotel management and culinary college, and residential condominiums and villages.

About a fifth of the enclave is dedicated to giardini and greenery featuring courtyards with fountains and lush trees on every turn. This, Hernandez said, makes the fenced-in high-end village ideal for people who want to retire to a tranquil and verdant environment just a few minutes away from their offices.

"This project is a sure hit for business executives, professionals and entrepreneurs who are looking for a place to live in that will automatically put them to a languor state from their busy and tiring city-life schedule," Hernandez stressed.

Seventh cluster

Highlighting the Tuscany Private Estate is the seventh cluster, which towers 17 stories above the other buildings.

The unit prices are approximately P3.8 million for a 46.2-square-meter 1-bedroom suite, P7.4 million for an 89.1-square-meter 2-bedroom home and P8.9 million for a 106.9-square-meter 3-bedroom affair.

The seven clusters will feature round-the-clock security, an intercom with security camera in each unit, two Internet-ready telephone lines and a provision for cable TV, continuous water supply and backup power, a reliable fire protection system, multiple parking at the basement and a total of 11 passenger elevators.

Hernandez said Megaworld is also spending heavily for the buildings' stone detailing and elegant arches, varying rooflines and façades in festive hues to recreate the beautiful and heavenly Tuscan environment in this landmark project for its future residents.

Lessons from a gas station

THE GAS STATION IS NOT WHAT IT USED to be. This ubiquitous fixture of the urban landscape has evolved from being a mere filling station into a full-service center with other businesses intertwined, catering to the needs of motorists and nonmotorists alike.

I recognized the advent of this modern version of the gas station with the Shell Station on South Luzon Expressway (back when it was still known as the South Superhighway) when it opened its famous Select convenience store.

A hub for motorists

It quickly became a hub for motorists on their way out of town, a meeting point for co-travelers, a quick snack or breakfast place for city traffic survivors, a last-minute stop to assuage the needs of the urban consumer. Pretty soon, tables had to be set up outside the store to accommodate the growing clientele, and the owners realized they had struck a gold mine.

Eventually, other businessmen took the cue: they observed and studied the phenomenon of the modern motorist and capitalized on it, thus creating one of the most profitable real estate ventures in recent years.

Business is so good that certain market analyses have shown that some food outlets housed in gas stations rank No. 1 in sales compared to their other branches. These days, gas stations don't just claim fuel as their main business, but service always is. It seems that real estate around the station generates the most income, areas that house very service-oriented establishments.

Secret behind the success

What is the secret behind the success? In a business, when your selling price is based on current market value, you must compete by always offering something better. In this case, it is offering convenience. Owners found out how to serve people better by listening to and addressing the needs of their customers.

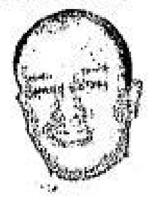
In my entrepreneurial class at AIM, one of the things I learned was to look for irritants—things that people found bothersome or lacking, find a solution for it and voila!... you have the seed of a business. Back then, customers were probably complaining about the lack of clean restrooms. The smart owner then started offering not just clean restrooms but, eventually, ones that were fully air-conditioned. Outside those clean restrooms, he opened a store or two—and soon, his fortune was made.

Customers looked for gas, clean toilets, food, supplies, maintenance service, or merely a place to stop and rest. Later on, some asked for a more hip place to meet, to hang out, to see and be seen, to enjoy gourmet coffee. They also required ample parking spaces and wide common areas to accommodate their huge SUVs and excited family groups. And so, the service oasis was born.

Stopover of choice

After a while, builders had to make the stops more visually appealing and relaxing to make them the stopover of choice. Clean lines and maintainability were paramount, lighting and ventilation had to be just right, and landscaping became a must.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



Marcos de Guzman Jr.

Some food outlets housed in gas stations rank No. 1 in sales

Back in college, we were tasked to design a gas station with a restaurant. I found it unusual then, but I did realize the need it addressed. That was probably the first time I saw the importance of acknowledging radical ideas, carefully analyzing their potential, and coming up with practical, sensible solutions. And to hurry up about it, or get beaten to the punch!

Progressive real estate developers think this way. They analyze the needs of their prospective buyers and design their products based on those needs. That way, the buyers just can't resist it. This brings us to another nugget of learning. Builders must base their designs on needs and not merely on the style of the moment. Remember that **need** is the mother of **invention** and **innovation.** And that's why gas stations are doing so great!

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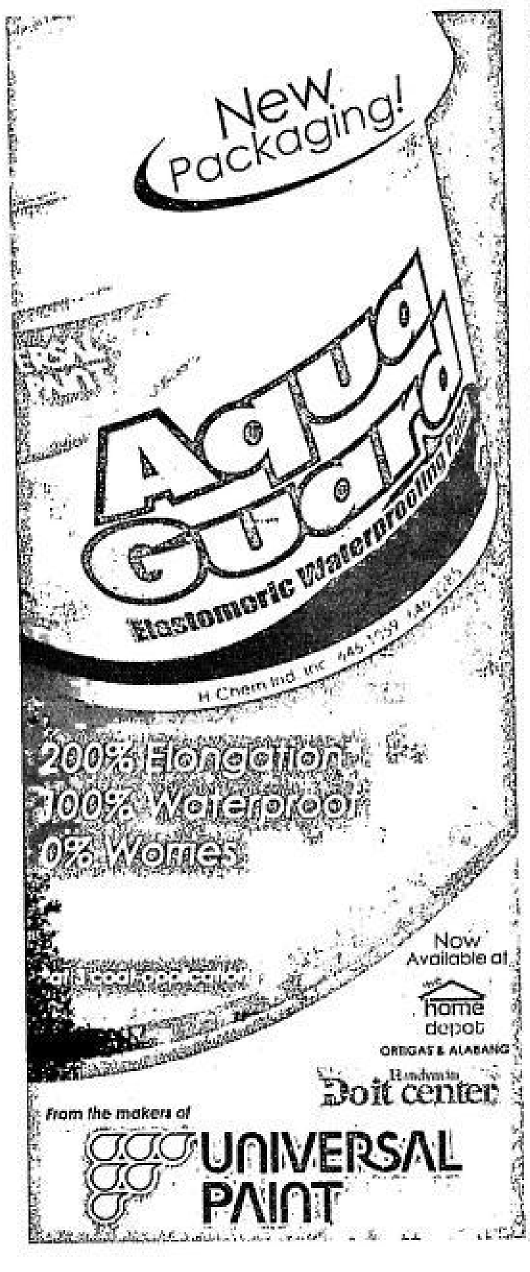

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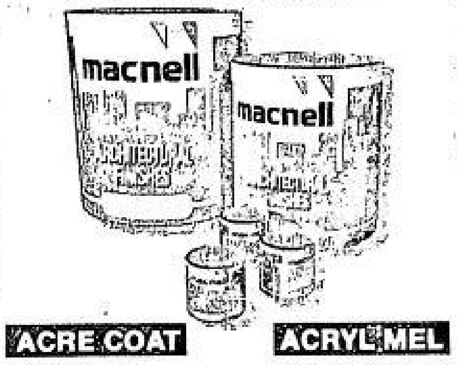

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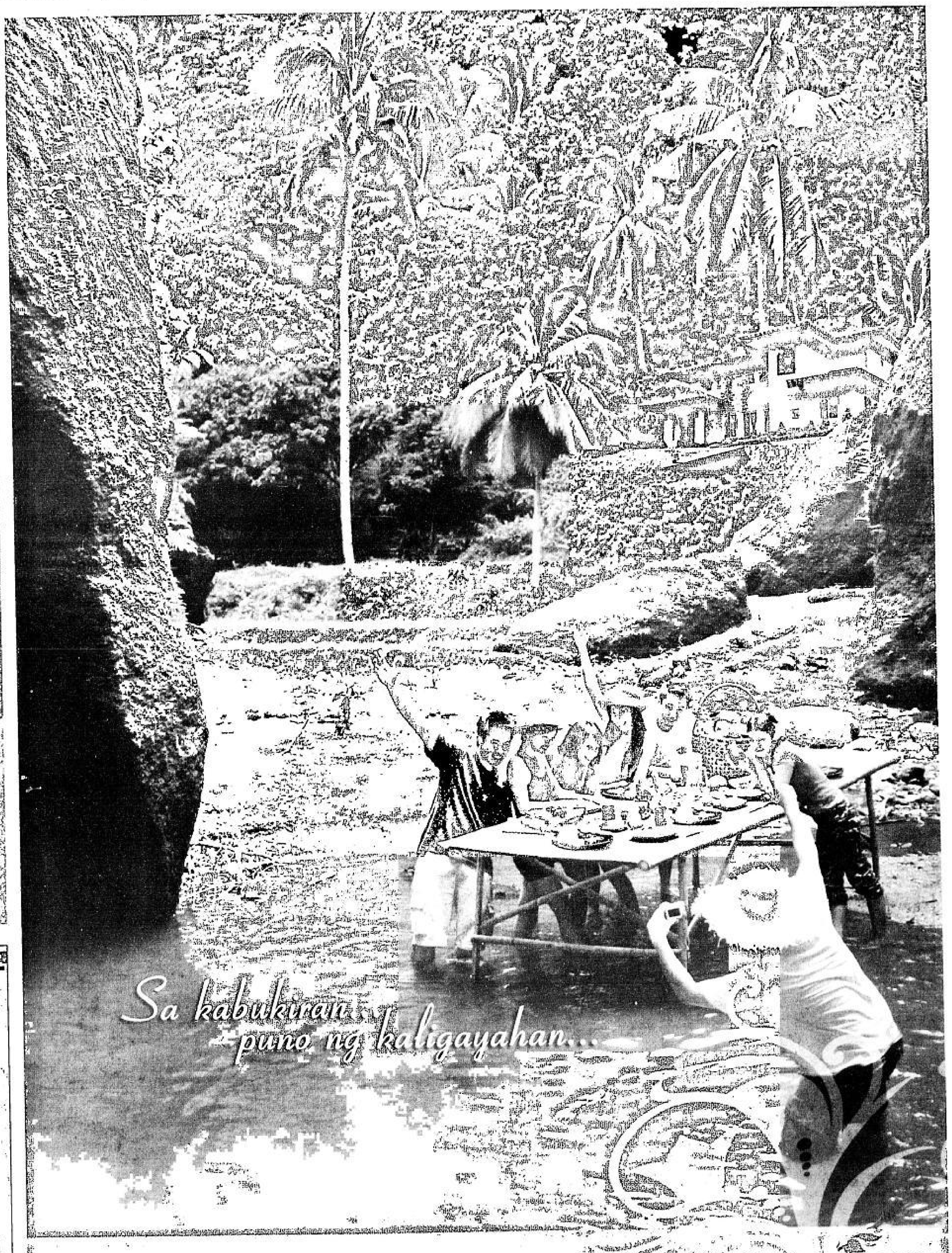
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PHOENIX LAND
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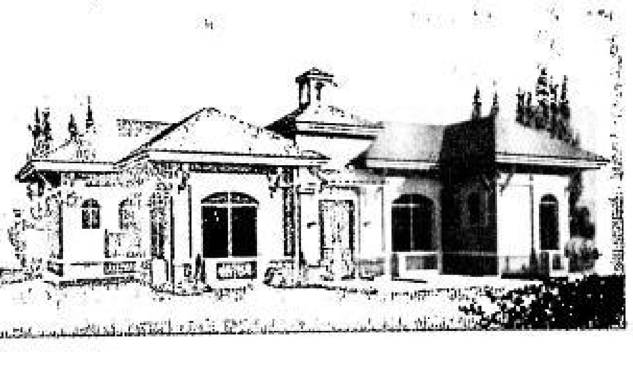
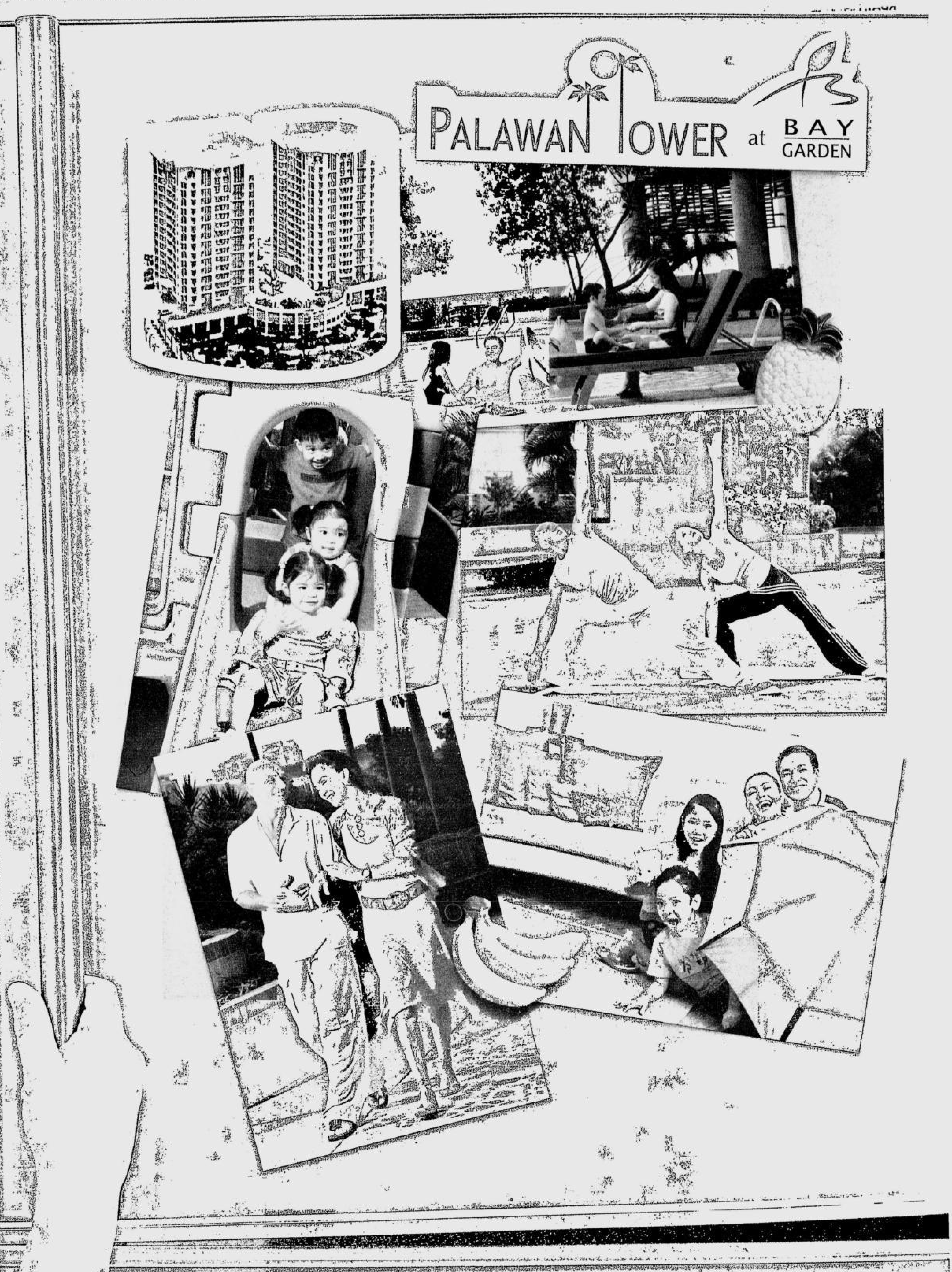


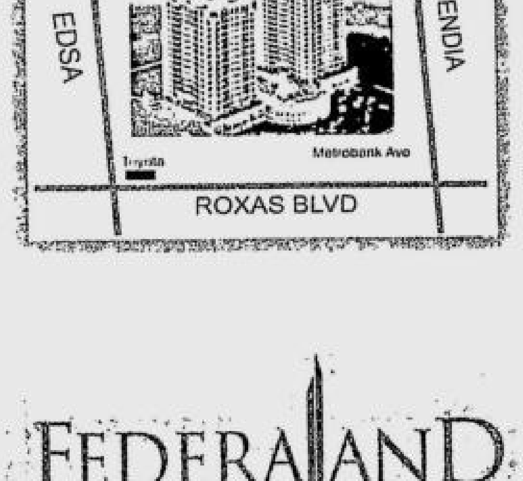
PALAWAN TOWER at BAY GARDEN



Introducing Palawan Tower - Bay Garden's latest attraction.

Ever wondered what it's like to be on vacation everyday? Step into the Bay Garden Community. Over here, life moves in a special pace. Behold the golden rays of Manila Bay's stunning sunsets as your family unwinds in resort-style amenities. Pools and playgrounds provide the backdrop for rest and relaxation. If you're looking for more upbeat fun, nearby hotspots like the Blue Wave Mall and Le Pavillon are waiting. Good times come naturally when you're near the Mall of Asia and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Living in here is like coming home to a grand vacation.

Palawan Tower is the 5th residential masterpiece in the exclusive Bay Garden community, which joins the four other residential spectacles: Anchor, Boardwalk, Crystal, and Mactan Towers. Visit us now and enjoy the breeze while you marvel at the wide open space that sprawls out to welcome you. We're sure you'll know why those who live in this space never leave the place.



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EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES. Donita, Erik and JP

Only in Boracay

By Donita Rose-Villarama

"Beautiful sunset on this perfect beach
All to do is just to take it slow and enjoy the show
Drinking up to the best days, sharing the afterlife
Only in Boracay, in Boracay we get a taste of paradise

And when the sun sinks in, into the waters
We are left with its after-glow of wild colors
Music starts playing, night-life beginning
No it doesn't get any better than this
No, no, no, no!
So enjoy my friends this time we're in now
You know we'll meet again in another kind of paradise"

–Armand Tajanlangit, Boracay Sunsets

THESE WERE THE lyrics echoing live in the background amidst a spectacular sunset while I played a wild game of beach volleyball with friends. As the ball was being set for the spike in the amber light, I took a split second to absorb the rest of the breathtaking surroundings. All of a sudden, it seemed like time stood still to give me a chance to make a lasting memory of this moment. There was a tingly, euphoric feeling in the pit of my stomach—almost as if my feet were floating a few feet above the cool powdery white sand. The feeling vaguely reminded me of my first kiss back in high school. As the last trace of day fell behind the cliff of Station 1, I pulled my husband by the hand toward the edge of the water for a yummy kiss that would undoubtedly erase any previous records. Before I knew it, everybody else had followed suit—including a couple of others that were not yet... um, couples. That is the kind of power that this magical island holds: its ambiance daring you to break away from the everyday mold of life and empowering you to live out your fantasies.

Highlights

That was one of the very many highlights of my recent trip to Boracay. The brilliance behind this project came from several Boracaynons—Ariel Abriam, a retired US Navy commander, Koy Rivera, DJ of 99.5 Hit FM, Cyril Lorenzana, independent filmmaker and Alvin Anson, actor and very energetic TV Host. These four men call themselves the Moguls and have joined forces to produce a show in hopes of promoting our national treasure to *kababayans* overseas and foreigners worldwide.

To spice things up a bit, we reeled in actress, host, and aspiring poet, Jackie Castillejo as scriptwriter, and other visually captivating people to help make waves (excuse the pun). Co-hosting alongside me were Tracy Abad, commercial model and DJ of 99.5 Hit FM and Li'l Joey or Joey Agustine, DJ of Magic 89.9. Our job was to let go of our every inhibition and to let Direk Cyril 'document' Boracay through our eyes. It was a painstakingly difficult task of massages, food-tasting and exploration. Not skills for the faint of heart, mind you.

Fly fishing and yacht parties

Our entire week was filled with exciting activities like jetskiing, fly fishing, parasailing, scuba-diving, yacht parties, rock climbing and helicopter

ONLY/ C4

LOVERS IN PARADISE. Donita with her new boyfriend

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NEON BOHEMIANS. Borgy Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness

SURVIVOR BORACAY. Jacq Yu and Paolo Gonzalez

IONIZED COUPLE. Brent Javier and Karen Pamintuan

INVASI-ONISTS. Will Devaughn and Amanda Griffin

SUPERFLY-ON! Mia Miranda and DJ Karl Ty

SCRIBBLER AND SON. Niccolo and Tati Fortuna

At the 'four-front'

Tim Yap

"TOO MUCH, TOO SOON." It's so easy to put this tag on anyone especially when you really don't see what goes on behind the scenes. It has been extra easy to stick this label on young people who somehow effortlessly manage to juggle multiple tasks and countless hats.

But that's this generation's secret. We don't show you the sweat. You never see the tears. We don't groan and moan about the hard work. All you can see are the candy-colored fruits that you think were handed to us on a silver neo-futuristic platter. Because that's what we do. We focus on the positive and see beyond the pettiness and the politics.

Super!'s very own mother nurturer **Sandy Prieto-Romualdez** once told me that in a flock of seagulls, the one who leads is somehow the luckiest, because the rest just tend to follow. The one at the forefront has the best view—the horizon.

On the reverse side, the one in front is also the easiest to shoot, the easiest to throw stones at and the easiest target for hunters out for blood.

But that's what life is about—risks. And choosing the ones you will take wisely. Right isn't always right, and left must never be taken for granted. Even the universe agrees.

Too much, too soon, it's all a matter of perception.

But the truth is, for me, life is so short that there is no such thing as too much. Or too soon.

There is only making the most out of time, trying your best at everything and doing what you can when you still can.

And I can.

Energy to last

Why I'm getting sentimental is not because I am taking a break to go to my annual French vacation for the Cannes Film Festival—it's because this section, my baby with **Pam Pastor** has turned four.

I've been working with Pammy for close to a decade now, coming to the INQUIRER office every week for nine years now (from our 2bu hey day with *the* **Thelma San Juan** to now) to our weekly Thursday closing sessions for this Saturday section that you are flipping through today. Looking back, each Super! page is filled with creativity, fun and boundless energy. Whew! Ahluvet!!!

Speaking of energy, energy drink I-On has just forayed into the mixology—oh yes, these days diversification is the key. They just had their "Summer Invas-I-On" series which took them all over—from Boracay to The Fort. The brand now prides itself with its versatility—you can now mix it with beer, I-On shandy, with vodka, and even as a mojito! Who needs uppers when you have I-On? Pam Pastor never goes onstage for her gigs without a can or two of the zesty ginseng based energy drink. This is the good, clean and fun (not to mention yuummy) way to party hard, and party long. (No sexual pun here.)

And while we are on the topic of long—in Boracay, celebs and media were treated to a looong day of fun and games courtesy of "I-On's Summer Invas-I-On." I was trying to get some shut eye when I heard **Will Devaughn**'s and **Amanda Griffin**'s voices booming over the microphone, waking up the entire island with their energy. Hmmm, they must have drank their I-On already. Well, no one seemed to complain about the long span of games that they had to play since everyone was on an extended energy run.

IONIC WOMAN. Bianca King hosting at Embassy

MODEL WORLD. Abby Cruz and MTV VJ Maggie Wilson

REVICON TRIO. Joaquin Trio, Shad Aquino and Tony Tony

IONIZED FOUR PLAY. Plotting the next years of Super!

ENERGY'S MAIN MAN. Jojo Gayola in Boracay

MAXIM'S HOT ONE. Rovilson Fernandez

IONIFIED TV host Jamie Joaquin

SCRIBBLEWORKIN. Tati Fortuna and Sarah [illegible]

EXTRA ENERGY. Will Devaughn can last the whole night

There was flag football, frisbee, dodgeball and the like. I saw how much of a motivational coach **Rovilson Fernandez** can be to his team. "Good job, good job!" He would scream out to his team mates, reminding me of INQUIRER editor **Chito de la Vega**'s e-mails of praise to his team for people who are doing a good job. If more people were like Rovilson and Chito, then even more people will be more inspired to be more productive and work their hardest—they're like energy drinks in the form of people. Yahoo! I can feel the extra adrenaline as I type these words.

The Alchemist

The night owl that I am, I am always on the lookout for new spots to go to—call me a 24-hour night person, or a call center employee.

Right in the heart of Eastwood, beside SM Libis and Tiendesitas (wow it was my first time to see this shopping haven in the East side!) is this new three-level night spot. The ground floor is a grub spot called O Cafe, the second level a nice cozy lounge named Liquid and the third a party hardy dance club—Vapor. All under the umbrella of Alchemy. Yehey to that! I say the more, the merrier. Welcome to the club, club Alchemy.

I spotted perennial "it" chick (she was "it" before anyone else was "it") **Samantha Eduque** at the brightly lit halls of the ground floor area, with her presence immediately giving the new hip spot the stamp of approval.

BLOND AMBITION. Miss Lisa plays the [illegible] during the opening of Alchemy

Owned by brothers **Raffy** and **Don Puno**, Alchemy reminds me of London "all in one" clubs—the ones that line Leicester Square. Fun, always packed and pumped with the latest in party lighting and sound technology, Alchemy is bound to make the nocturnal scene more hot and happening. I saw neon-clad scenesters roaming around the venue - could this be the return of the rave?

"It's the club for our age," ageless actor **Albert Martinez** whispered to me at the Liquid Lounge. This Belo man doesn't age. At all.

What does alchemy mean? I thought it was a mix between algebra and chemistry, both of which I think I failed. That night, two blonde chicks, **Miss Lisa** and **Diamond**, both from San Diego California (heard they play for Palyboy) played the audience a bleached set of party music while sipping their I-On vodka.

Upon closer inspection, I found out that alchemy means "magical power of transmuting a common substance, usually of little value, into a substance of great value."

On Super!'s four years at the forefront of style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment and recreation, I am hit with the realization that the work we have been doing has been an alchemy of sorts—transforming a blank page into two dimensional time capsules using words, images, colors, ideas and concepts that other people might not dare put down on paper.

So to our dear Super! readers, friends, relatives, supporters and critics, here's to more years of creativity, positive energy and magical alchemy.

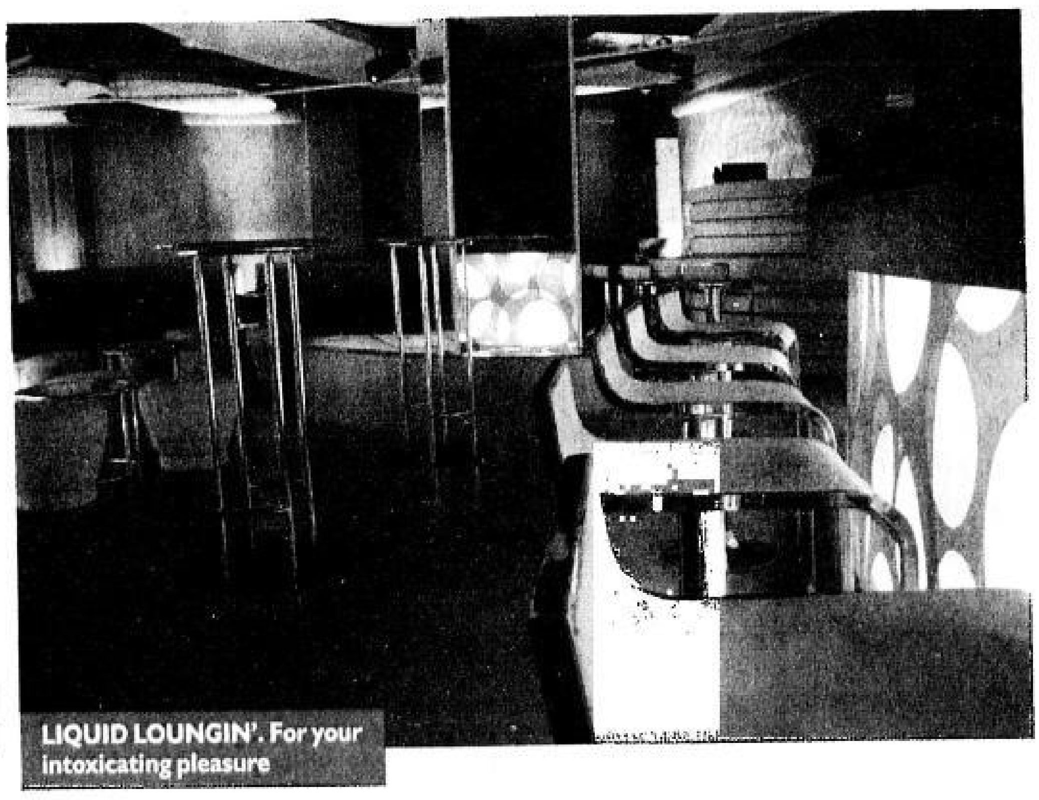
ALCHEMY OF SORTS. A new place to dance, dance, dance

ALCHEMEISTER. Raffy Puno

PARTY TREE. Alchemy's Don Puno

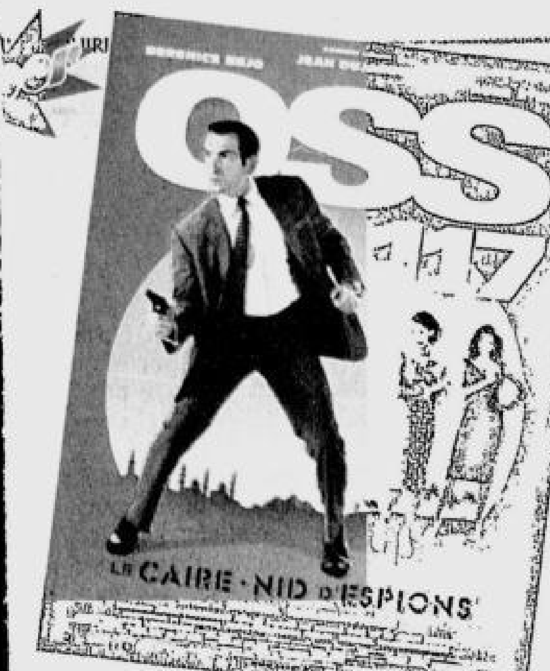
VAPOR-IZED. Karen [illegible] and Jerry Garcia

O CAFE. Yummy food before you par-tay!



LIQUID LOUNGIN'. For your intoxicating pleasure

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? The night scene's newest hotspot, Alchemy



'OSS 117' will be the opening film of this year's French Film Festival, which will run from June 7 to 17 in the Shangri-La Plaza mall, and from June 22 to 24 in Ayala Center Cebu

From France with Love

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

IMAGINE AUSTIN POWERS CROSSED with James Bond, and a little bit of Borat thrown in for good measure. You have Hubert Bonisseur de la Bath—alias special agent OSS 117—France's bizarre answer to the debonair British spy 007: irresistibly suave, suitably arrogant, but culturally clueless.

Using cheesy cocktail music, bad lip synching, and an offbeat style of blue-screen filming, the 2006 French comedy, "OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies," is a side-splitting spoof of the silver screen's greatest secret agents. Set in 1955, the film follows the not-so-super spy go on a mission to mystical Cairo, where he stumbles into a web of international intrigue, and bumps heads with Egyptian bombshells, Russian rogues, and not a few neo-Nazis.

Apart from being a box-office hit in its home country, the movie also received phenomenal reception in the international film festival circuit.

"OSS 117" will be the opening film of this year's French Film Festival, which will run from June 7 to 17 in the Shangri-La Plaza mall, and from June 22 to 24 in Ayala Center Cebu. For schedules, call Alliance Française at 895-7585 or visit www.alliance.ph.

More Super! 24/7 events:

May 26, Saturday

Deep Down & Discofied w/ DJs Karl Ty & Marie Garcia at Fiamma; Autobahn Motorshow w/ DJ Lounge Music & Car Club Events at Bonifacio High Street; Soundsgood at Embassy Cuisine; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; House Music at Mezze; PI Jazz at Greenbelt 2 & 3; Saxophoro at Serendra; Arriba at Café Havana Malate

May 27, Sunday

Saxophoro at Greenbelt 2 & 3; MPO Quartet at Serendra; Brunch Affair w/ Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Café

May 28, Monday

Kabbalah Lecture: 7th Heaven at AIM Conference Center; Happy Mondays hosted by Borgy Manotoc at Embassy Cuisine; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati

May 29, Tuesday

Under the Influence Electronica w/ Drip & guest DJs at Fiamma; Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; 80s & 90s Night w/ DJ Jeff at Temple; Jazz Night at Mezze; Sparkle w/ DJ Patch at Absinth; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt

May 30, Wednesday

House of Soul w/ DJs Benjo Marquez & Jason Soong at Fez (Serendra); W Wednesdays w/ DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Lush: Smooth Rn'B at Fiamma; DJs Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Dejavu 90s Night w/ DJ David Ardiente at Coquina

May 31, Thursday

Latin Night w/ Tribo Manila at Mezze; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; Soundsgood DJs at Nuvo; SPIT at Mag:net Café; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt; Backtrack Thursdays at Club O; Radio Coquina at Coquina

June 1, Friday

The Absolut Apeach Bar Tour at Decades (Metrowalk); House Sessions at Fiamma; DJ David Ardiente at Coquina; Karen Manion at Martinis Bar; Remarkable w/ Mark Bautista & Rachelle Ann Go at Club O; MILF: Mom I Love Fridays! at Absinth; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Jivé Fridays at Temple; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt

Schedules may change without prior notice. For a complete listing of events, text 24/7 GIGS to 2851 (Globe) and 2951 (Smart). Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com, mag24_7@yahoo.com, and NocturnalNavigator@gmail.com.

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3. Text WYETH<space>Entry code<space>Name/Age/Address to 2305 to redeem the free Globe load and to enter the raffle. Only 1 raffle entry is valid per entry code.
4. Phonekit winners will receive a text message, registered mail and a phone call. The phone call will inform them of the designated Globe Hub branch at which they can claim their prize. To claim, winners must present the text and mail notification and 2 valid IDs.
5. Phonekits must be claimed within 60 days from the date of notification. Unclaimed prizes (phone kits) after the deadline will be forfeited in favor of Wyeth Philippines, Inc. (WPI), with prior approval from DOH-BFAD.
6. A participant can only win once during the raffle draw. Should a name be drawn more than once, the prize of a higher value shall be awarded and another name will be drawn as replacement.
7. All officers and employees of WPI, Globe, their advertising and promo agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
8. In case of dispute, the decision of WPI with concurrence of DOH-BFAD, shall be considered final.

Globe

Hurry! Promo runs from April 16 to May 27, 2007 only. Continue nurturing the gift to get loaded with prizes!

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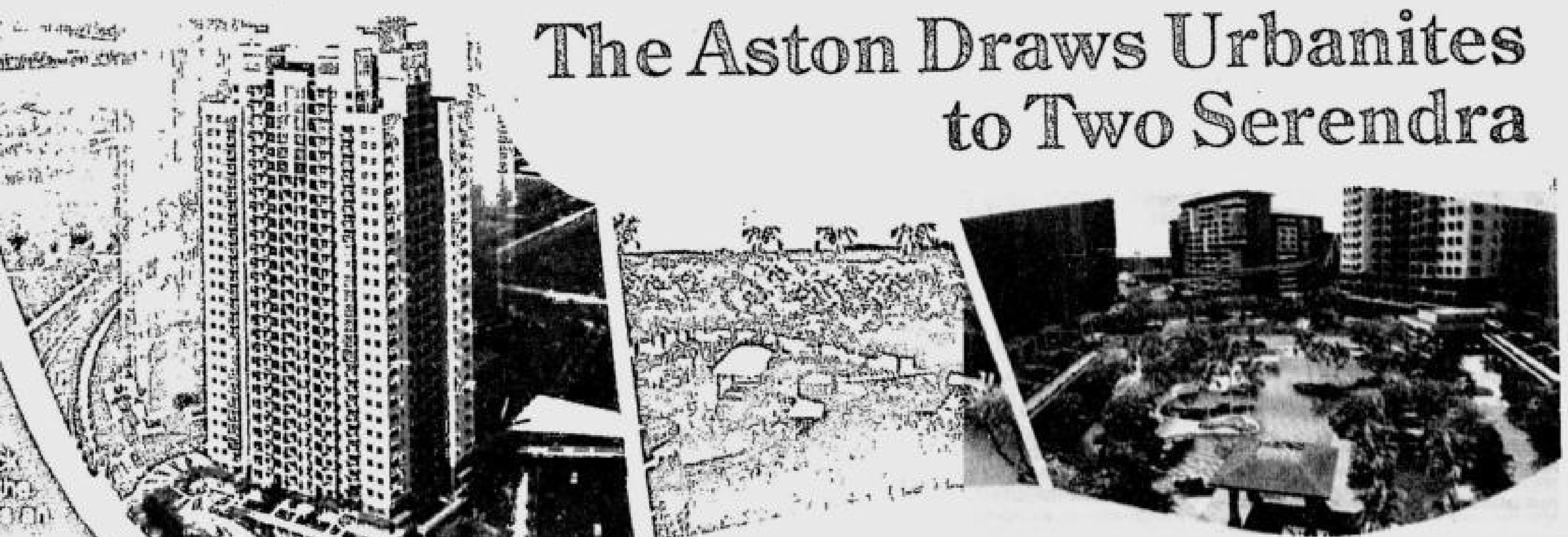


The Aston Draws Urbanites to Two Serendra

Residential living is reaching new levels of sophistication and convenience with the launch of Community Innovations' (an Ayala Land Company) The Aston – the newest addition to the masterplanned estate that is Two Serendra.

Named after a tree that denotes stability and grandeur, The Aston is the first in a string of four high-rise sections built to mirror the coastal gateways and landmarks of Europe. This 30-storey residence will offer verdant waterfront panoramas from its bay windows or balconies, underscoring an idyllic water theme that features expansive pools and other water elements designed to create a distinct resort feel. Child-friendly amenities like the river boat, tree house, hanging bridge and the splash pool will prove to be a big hit among kids, while a forest walkway, jogging trail and open lawn evokes leisurely ideals.

The newest phase of Two Serendra calls to mind the laid-back pace that the entire development is known for – proving that the charm of suburbia combined with metropolitan convenience is an unquestionably tempting draw for urbanites.

For inquiries, call 856-1888, email twoserendra@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.twoserendra.com.ph.
Model units are available for viewing daily from 9 am to 8 pm at the Serendra Sales Pavilion along 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City.

Only in Boracay

From page C1

rides around the island but what gave me a most pleasant surprise were three activities I never expected to enjoy.

The first was the ATV ride. There were about 10 of us in total, each on our own vehicle of choice, following an off-road trail all the way up to the peak of Mount Luho, the highest point on the island. When we reached the top, we were welcomed by a breathtaking view of the entire island surrounded by a crisp spectrum of blue waters.

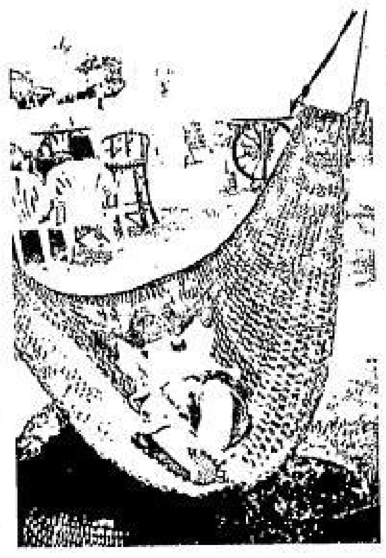
The next activity that opened my eyes to discover a whole other world was golf. I've always had the impression that golf was either for the retired or for those interested in taking up the sport in the comfort of their living rooms via the Nintendo Wii (which if you don't have yet, you've been missing two thirds of your life). Boy, was I wrong! At the Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club, my other half and I were determined to fool the caddies by putting into practice all the things we knew about golf from our gaming console. We were a disaster waiting to happen, which is why we were transported to the less inhabited terrain of the last nine holes, again, overlooking the tranquil sea of blue. It was nothing and everything like we thought it would be, but most importantly, we were having the time of our lives laughing up a storm at the experience. I still can't help but smirk when I remember the look on my husband's face when I made a ridiculously impossible shot bounce off the rocks in the middle of a pond and land on the green a few centimeters away from the hole to end with a double bogey (*naks*).

Horseback riding

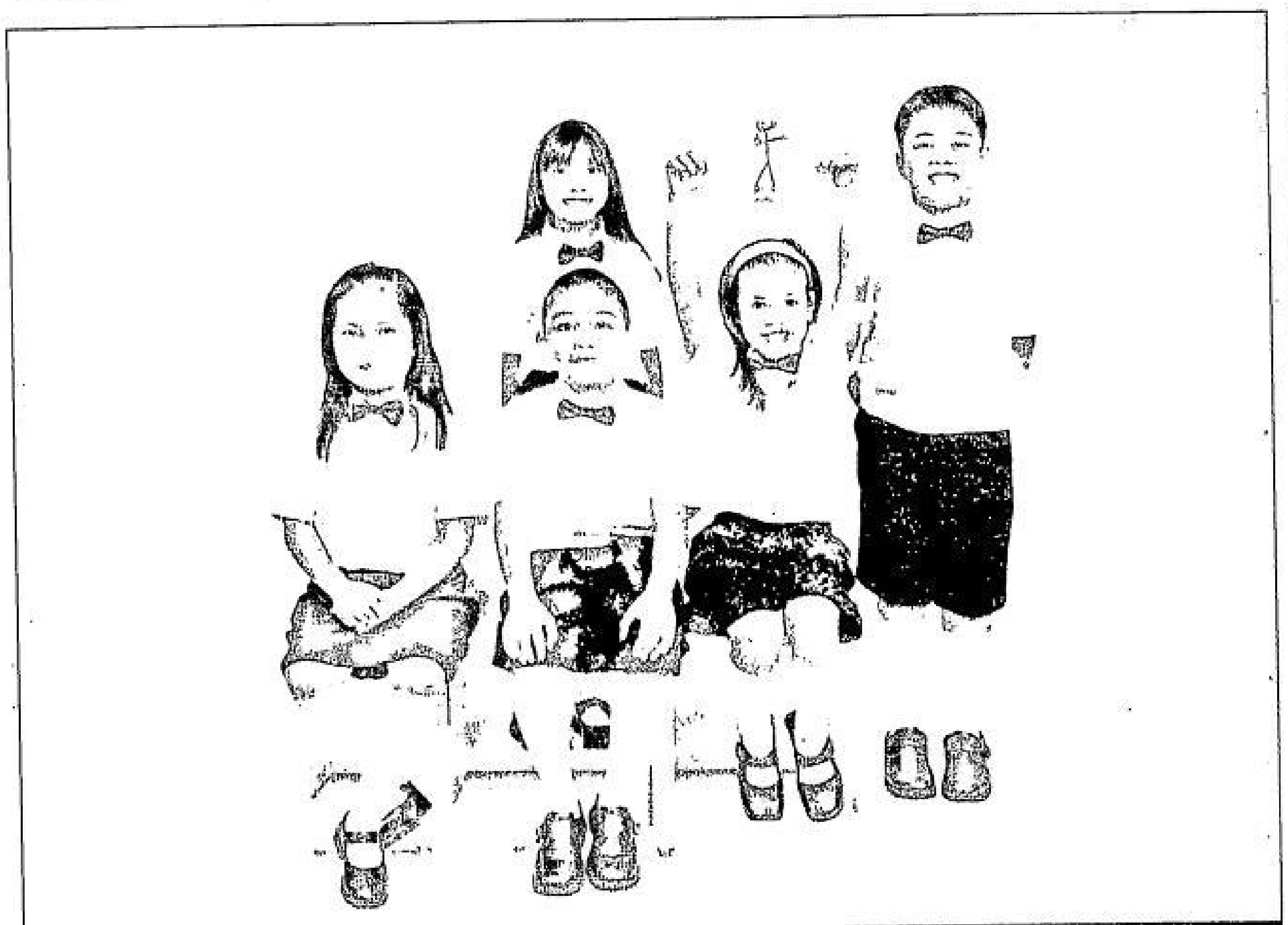
Lastly, what became my ultimate favorite of all activities was horseback riding on the beach, but it occurred in a most peculiar way. Those of us who didn't know how to ride had a horse trainer walking alongside us to ensure our safety. Since it was more cinematic to keep the trainers out of the shot, my director requested that the trainer move a few feet away just long enough to get some good footage of the sun disappearing behind us. Much to my surprise, after a few seconds of calm trotting, the horse that I was riding decided that he wanted to gallop into the darkness. He began to gallop too fast for my trainer to keep up. So there I was terrified and barely hanging on to Seabiscuit for dear life as it headed for the rocks until I had an epiphany.

I remembered that four days prior to this horrific incident, Eric and I played the strangest arcade game at the mall—a horseracing game. The objective, much to the humiliation of gathering onlookers around us, was to initiate the galloping motion as fast as we could on this silly looking contraption in an attempt to be the first to the finish line. I realized that what I had lost in dignity that day I had gained in knowledge that was immediately put to good use! I simulated what I had learned from the prestigious school of TimeZone and somehow became one with the horse, moving along to his every stride. What began as a bike ride on training wheels became an exhilarating adventure! With my back straight, my derriere off the saddle and my hair flowing in the wind, all that was left to do was pass me the bouquet and crown me Miss Universe! Wow, I couldn't believe the high I was feeling... until Mr. Biscuit came to a halt and I literally came off of my high horse walking bowlegged!

So there you have it, a quick glimpse of the perennial beauty this island has to offer. It left such an impression on us that on our flight back to Manila, my husband asked me, "Sweetheart, is it always like this for you?" I replied, "What do you mean?" He answered, "That your work is always like a Boracay experience for you." I nodded my head in agreement and smiled. "Well, if that's the case," he added, "then I cannot keep all of this from you. So let's move back to the Philippines! Just as long as we get to make more trips to... Bora-Bora-Bora-Boracay!"



ROCK-A-BYE-BABY. My hubby baby Erik



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Must-Have Cake Campaign Calls For A Celebration!

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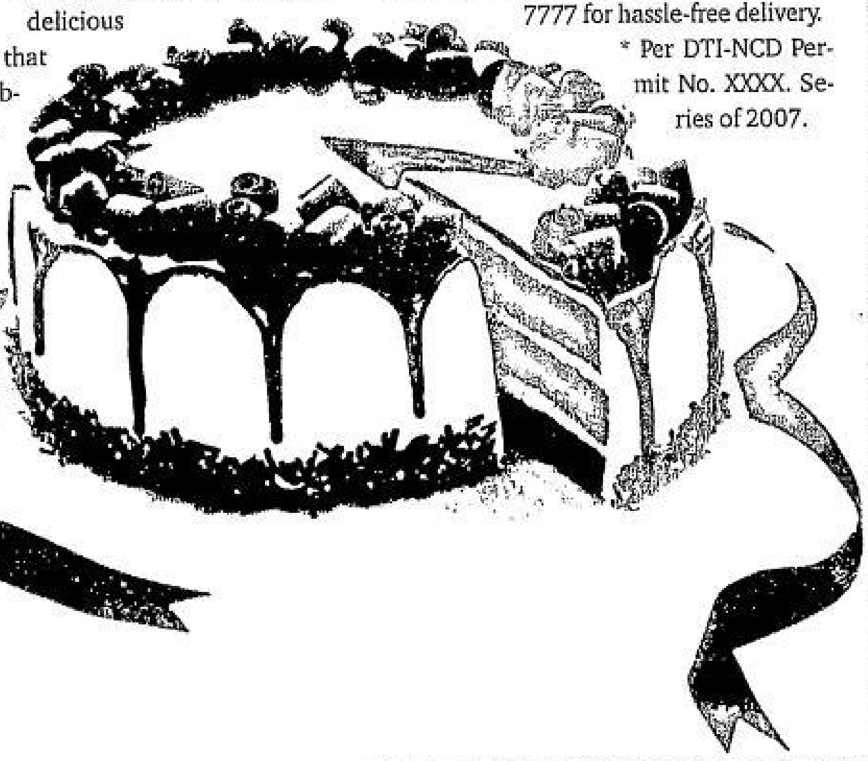
From the all-time favorite Chocolate Mousse, to the classic Black Forest to the famous Chocolate Marjolaine, Red Ribbon's wide array of delectable cake offerings makes any celebration special. This year, Red Ribbon showcases its wonderful cake creations by launching the "Must-Have Cake-of-the-Month" campaign. This campaign successfully re-introduces the many delicious cakes that Red Ribbon currently offers by featuring a cake per month.

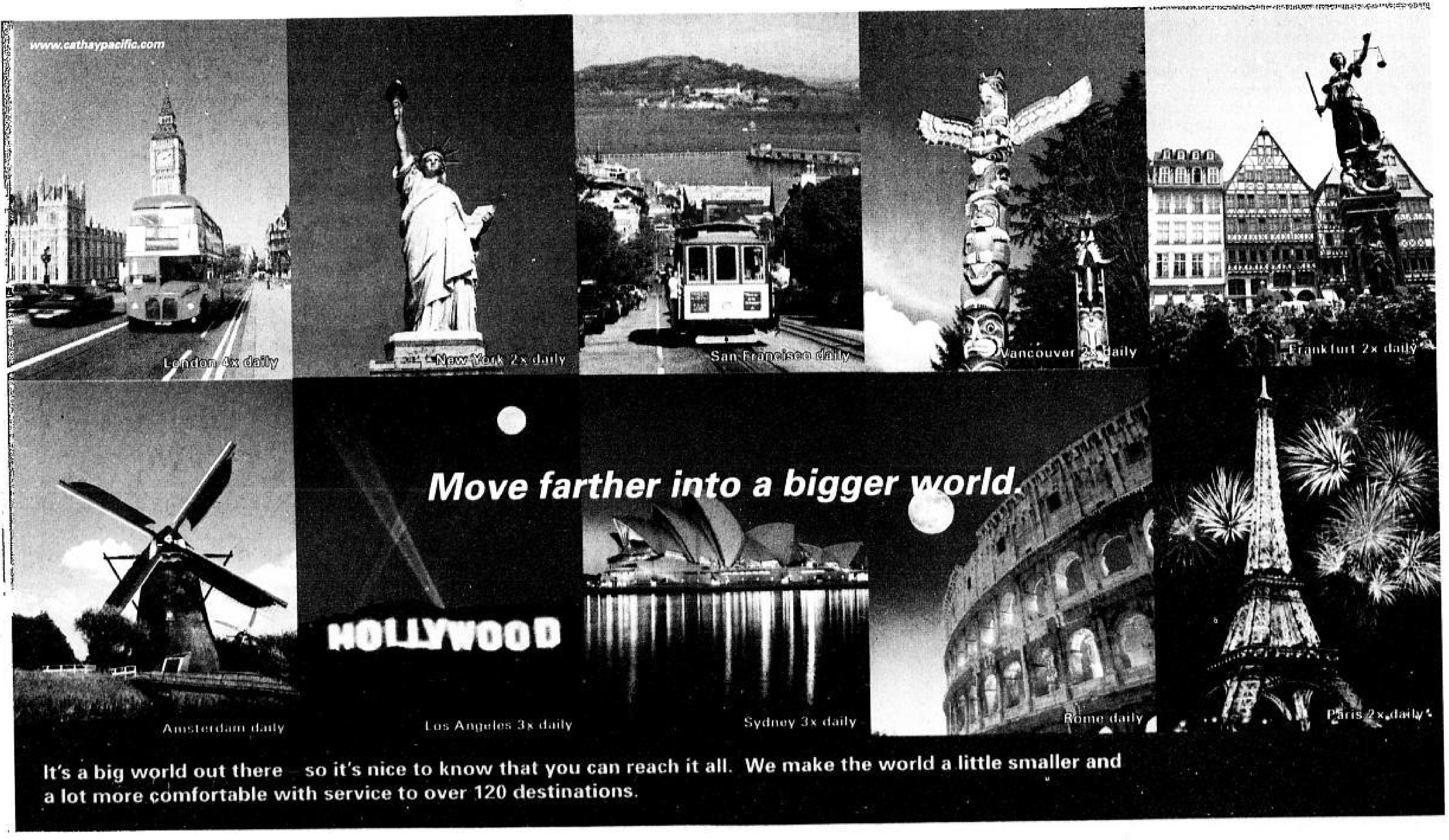
This May, try Red Ribbon's Tiramisu Meltdown! A heavenly 3-layer cake of choco chiffon and cream cheese filling, dappled with a hint of coffee liquor and topped with chocolate curls and melt-in-your-mouth dark chocolate ganache.

And, as an icing on the cake, Red Ribbon gives away a free cake lifter* for every purchase of Tiramisu Meltdown, in regular, medium or large sizes.

Whatever the celebration, it's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon! Visit a Red Ribbon branch near you today or call 747-7777 for hassle-free delivery.

* Per DTI-NCD Permit No. XXXX. Series of 2007.





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Super!'s 4th year anniversary issue

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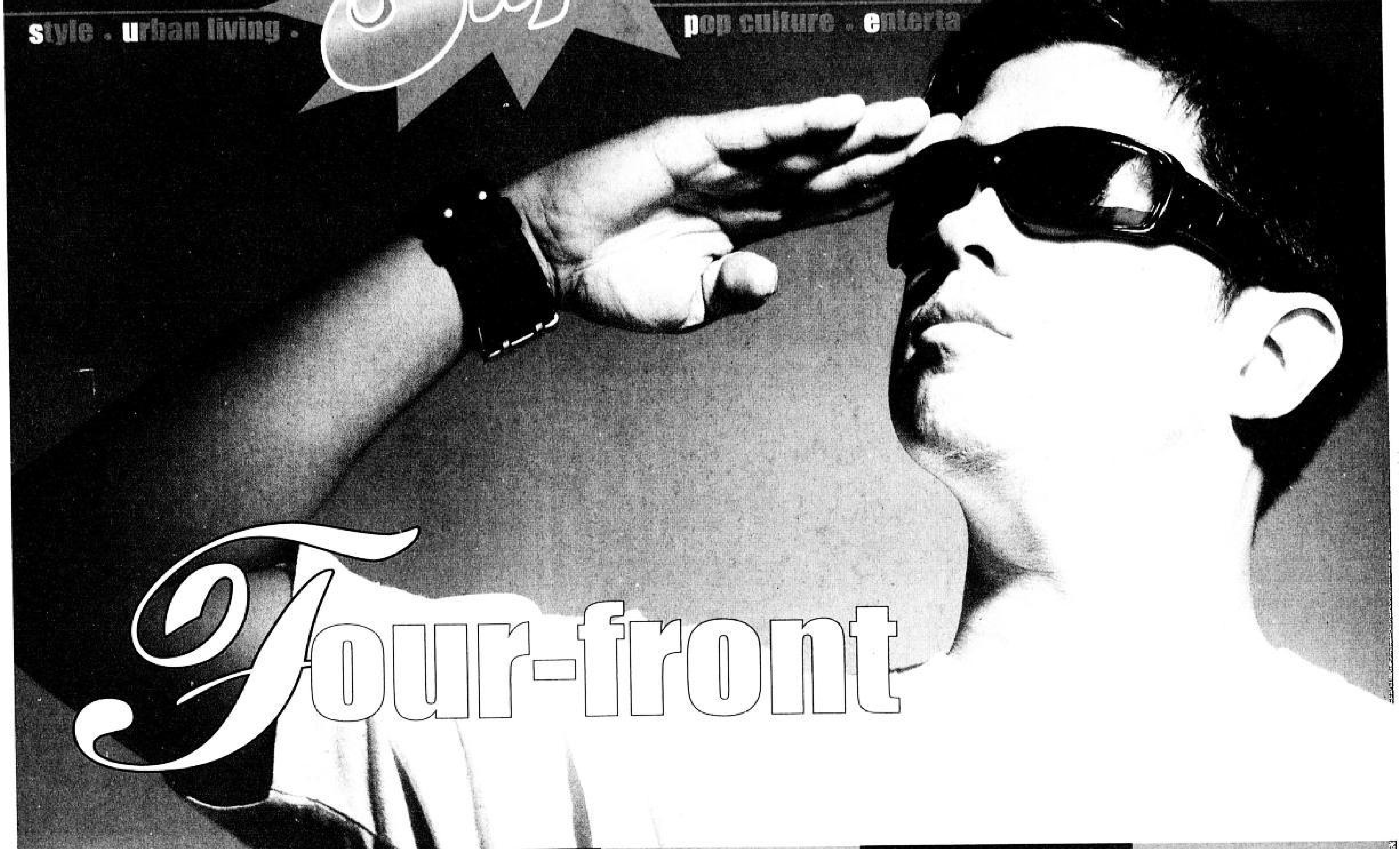
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super

style . urban living . pop culture . enterta



Four-front

Francis M shows us new 4m of heroism page D3

Donita Rose writes 4 Super! page C1

4 things to know and forget about page E1

Super! musings on its fantastic 4 years page D4

Produced, Conceptualized and Styled by TIM YAP
Photography RAMON TAN MANGILA
Sittings Editor DAVID MILAN
Cover Star FRANICS MAGALONA
in Nike Visions and Timepieces

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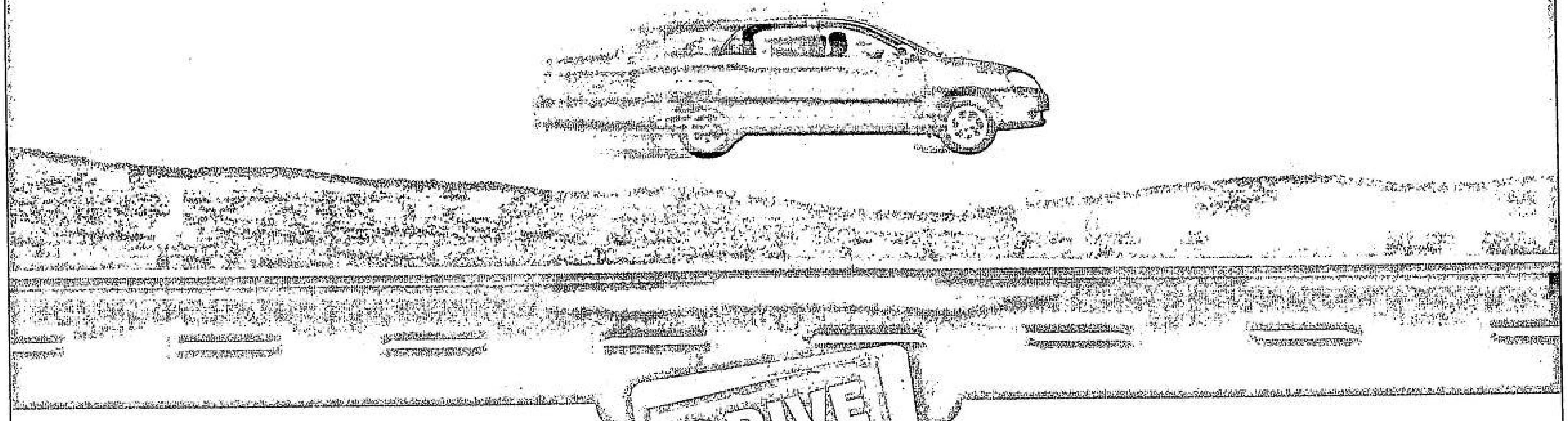
Beep-Beep, Beep-Beep, Yeah!



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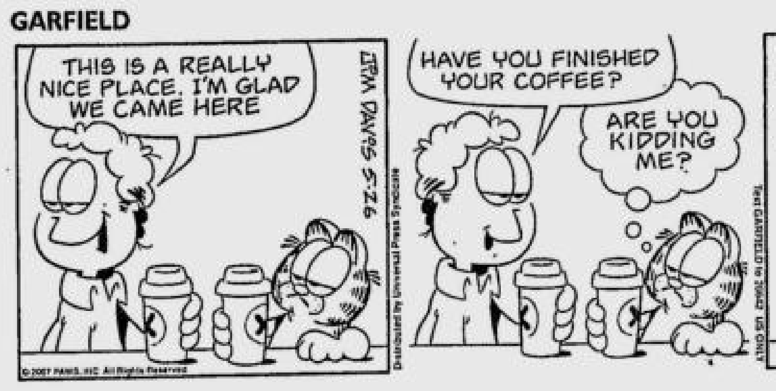
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


THIS IS A REALLY NICE PLACE. I'M GLAD WE CAME HERE
JPM DAVIS 5-26
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR COFFEE?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
FOR SIX BUCKS A CUP, I'M EATING THE CHAIR
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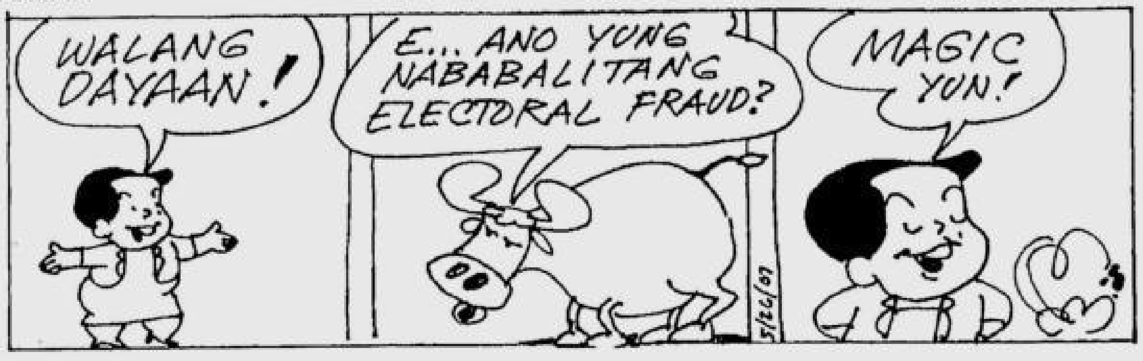
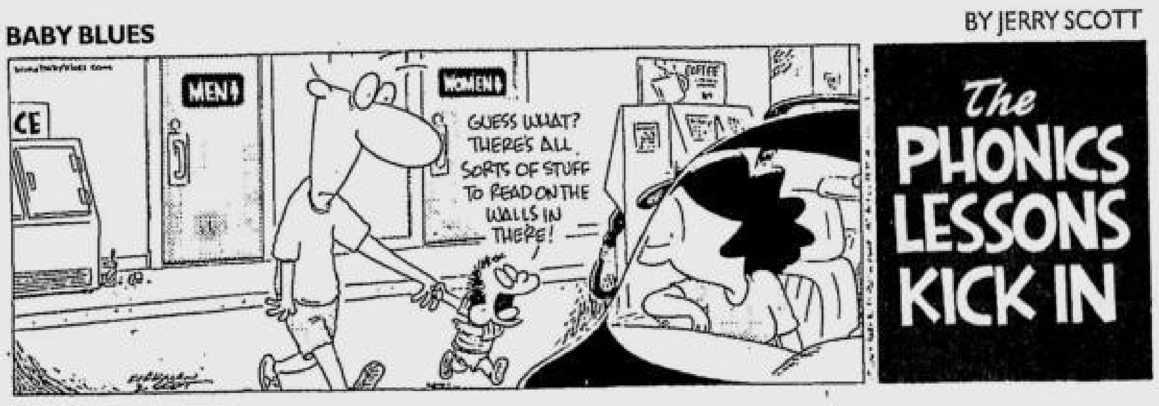
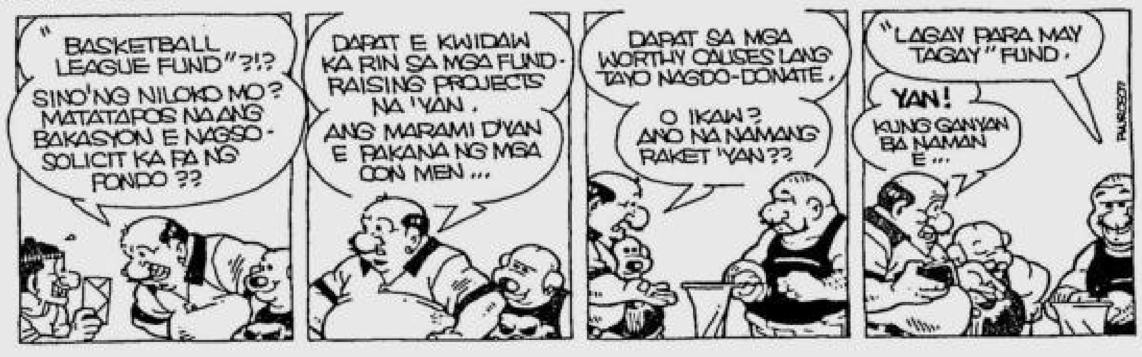
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


WALANG DAYAAN!
E... ANO YUNG NABABALITANG ELECTORAL FRAUD?
MAGIC YUN!
5/26/07

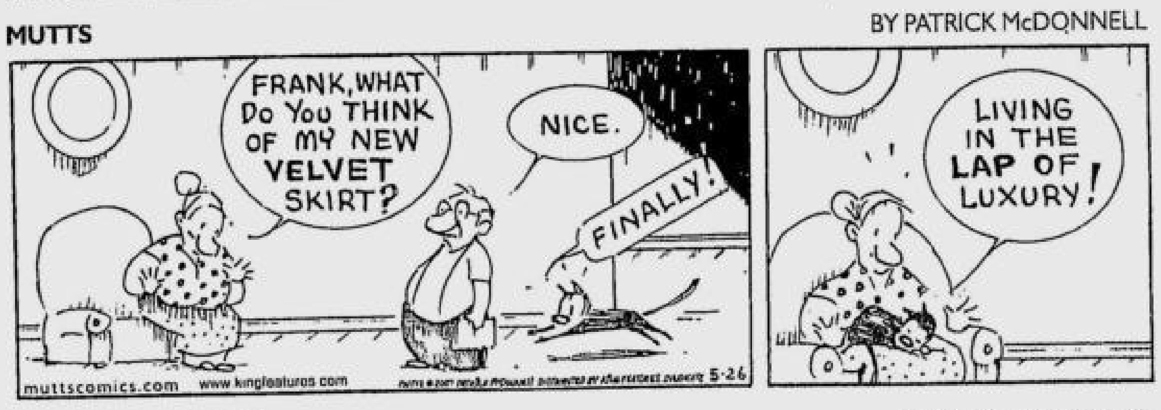
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


MEN
WOMEN
CE
GUESS WHAT? THERE'S ALL SORTS OF STUFF TO READ ON THE WALLS IN THERE!
The PHONICS LESSONS KICK IN

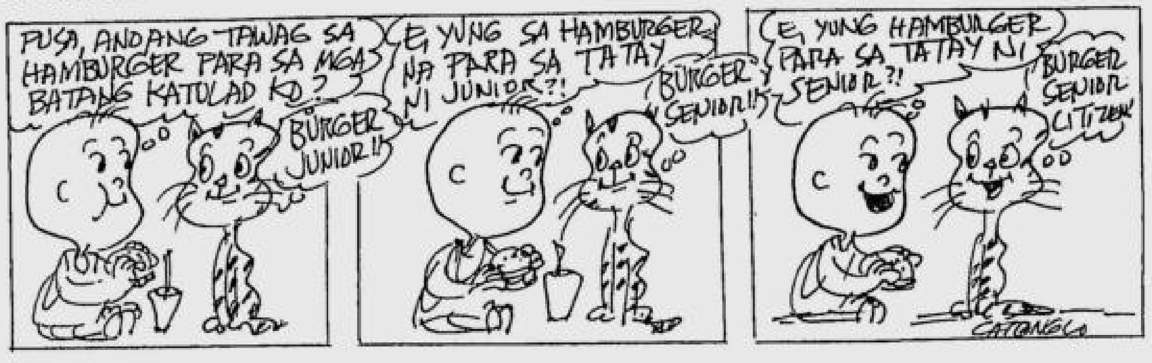
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


"BASKETBALL LEAGUE FUND"?!?
SINO'NG NILOKO MO? MATATAPOS NA ANG BAKASYON E NAGSO-SOLICIT KA PA NG PONDO ??
DAPAT E KWIDAW KA RIN SA MGA FUND-RAISING PROJECTS NA 'YAN.
ANG MARAMI D'YAN E PAKANA NG MGA CON MEN...
DAPAT SA MGA WORTHY CAUSES LANG TAYO NAGDO-DONATE.
O IKAW? ANO NA NAMANG RAKET 'YAN??
"LAGAY PARA MAY TAGAY" FUND.
YAN!
KUNG GANYAN BA NAMAN E...

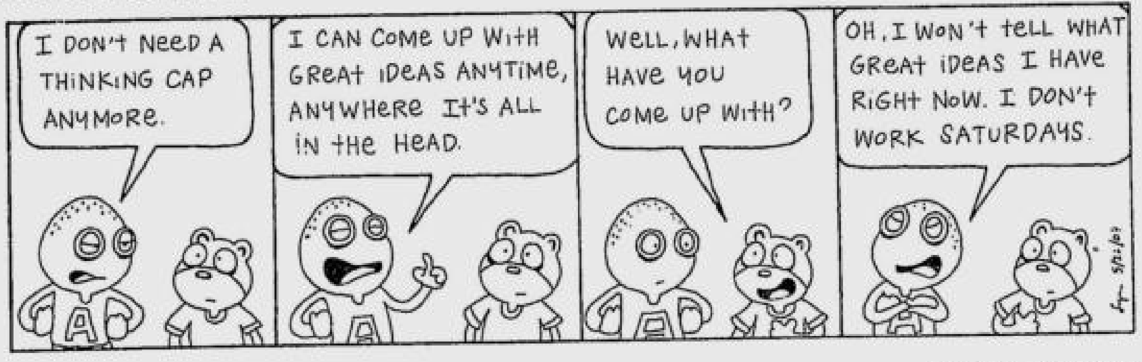
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FRANK, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY NEW VELVET SKIRT?
NICE.
FINALLY!
LIVING IN THE LAP OF LUXURY!
muttscomics.com www.kingfeatures.com
5-26

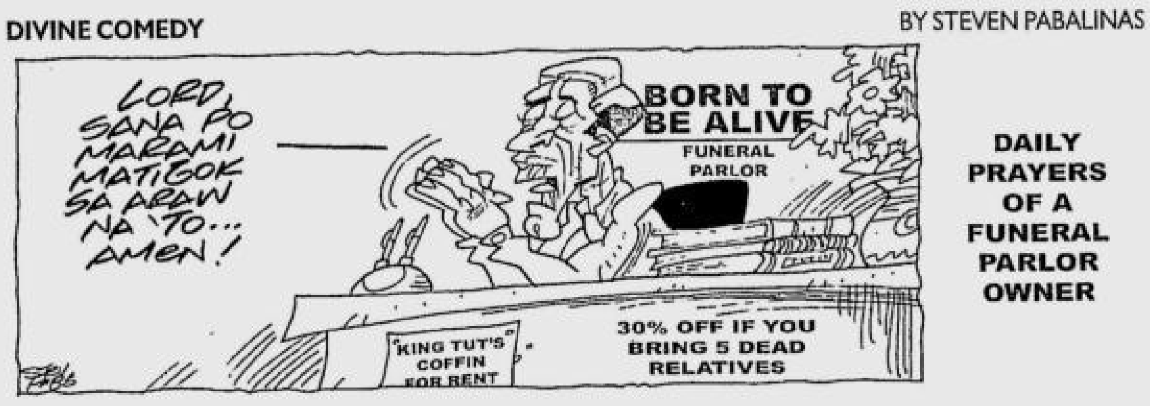
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, ANO ANG TAWAG SA HAMBURGER PARA SA MGA BATANG KATULAD KO?
BURGER JUNIOR!!
E, YUNG SA HAMBURGER NA PARA SA TATAY NI JUNIOR?!
BURGER SENIOR!!
E, YUNG HAMBURGER PARA SA TATAY NI SENIOR?!
BURGER SENIOR CITIZEN
CATONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I DON'T NEED A THINKING CAP ANYMORE.
I CAN COME UP WITH GREAT IDEAS ANYTIME, ANYWHERE IT'S ALL IN THE HEAD.
WELL, WHAT HAVE YOU COME UP WITH?
OH, I WON'T TELL WHAT GREAT IDEAS I HAVE RIGHT NOW. I DON'T WORK SATURDAYS.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LORD, SANA PO MARAMI MATIGOK SA ARAW NA 'TO... AMEN!
BORN TO BE ALIVE
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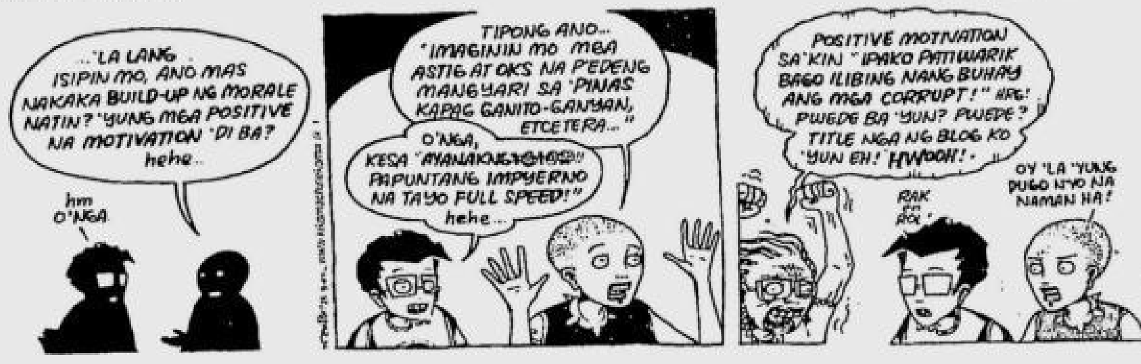
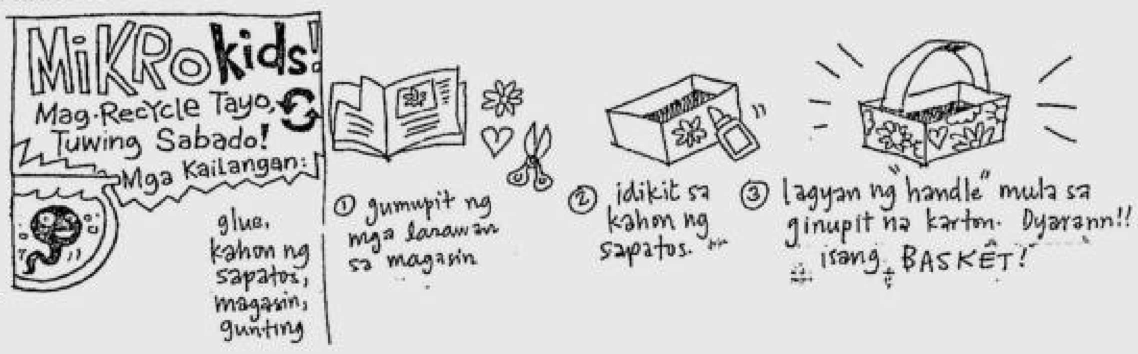
"KING TUT'S" COFFIN FOR RENT
30% OFF IF YOU BRING 5 DEAD RELATIVES
DAILY PRAYERS OF A FUNERAL PARLOR OWNER

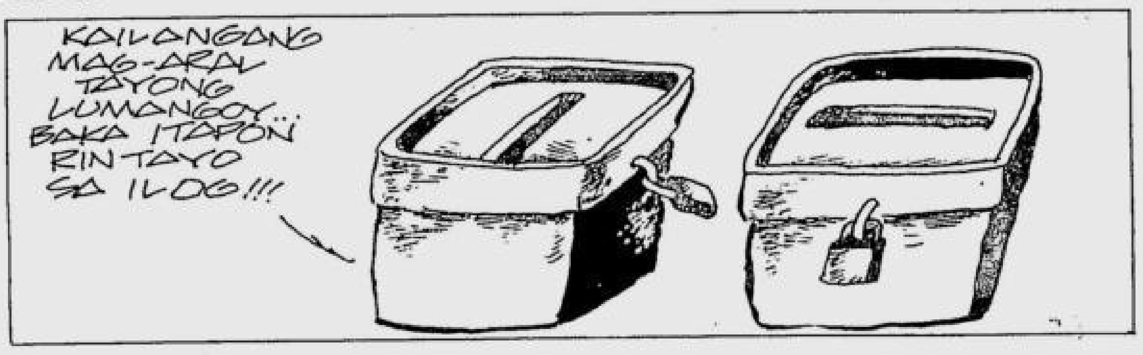
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


...'LA LANG. ISIPIN MO, ANO MAS NAKAKA BUILD-UP NG MORALE NATIN? 'YUNG MGA POSITIVE NA MOTIVATION 'DI BA? hehe..
hm O'NGA.
TIPONG ANO... "IMAGININ MO MGA ASTIG AT OKS NA P'EDENG MANGYARI SA 'PINAS KAPAG GANITO-GANYAN, ETCETERA..."
O'NGA, KESA "AYANAKWEKAGOSH!! PAPUNTANG IMPYERNO NA TAYO FULL SPEED!" hehe..
POSITIVE MOTIVATION SA'KIN "IPAKO PATIWARIK BAGO ILIBING NANG BUHAY ANG MGA CORRUPT!" HRG! PWEDE BA 'YUN? PWEDE? TITLE NGA NG BLOG KO 'YUN EH! HWOOH!
RAK EN ROL
OY 'LA 'YUNG DUGO N'YO NA NAMAN HA!

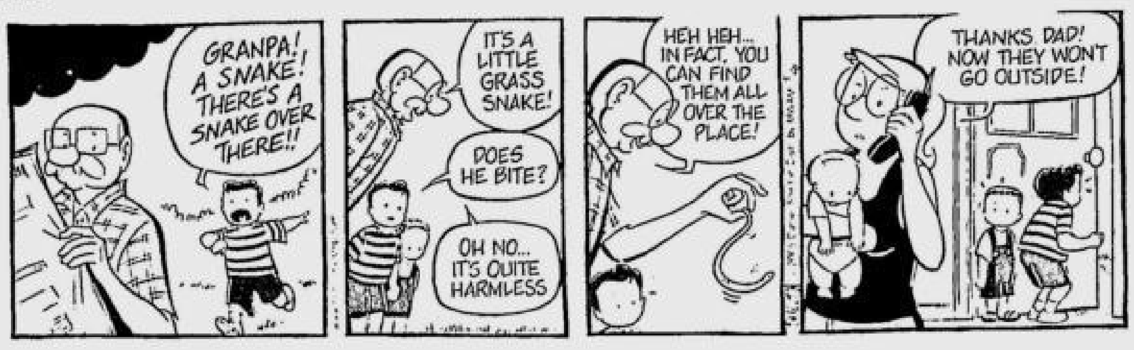
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKROkids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
glue, kahon ng sapatos, magasin, gunting
① gumupit ng mga larawan sa magasin
② idikit sa kahon ng sapatos.
③ lagyan ng "handle" mula sa ginupit na karton. Dyarann!! isang BASKET!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

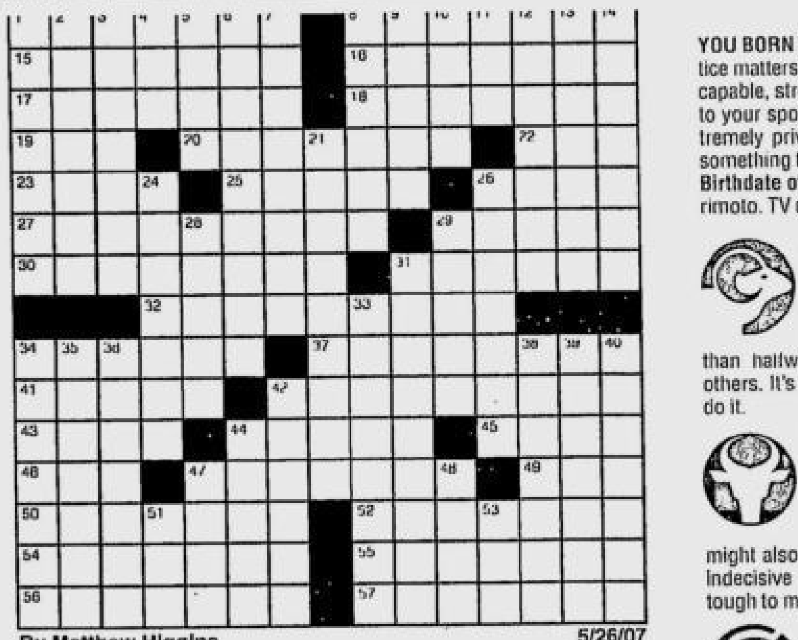

KAILANGANG MAG-ARAL TAYONG LUMANGOY... BAKA ITAPON RIN TAYO SA ILOG!!!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


GRANPA! A SNAKE! THERE'S A SNAKE OVER THERE!!
IT'S A LITTLE GRASS SNAKE!
DOES HE BITE?
OH NO... IT'S QUITE HARMLESS
HEH HEH... IN FACT, YOU CAN FIND THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE!
THANKS, DAD! NOW THEY WON'T GO OUTSIDE!

DAILY CROSSWORD

1 Platform on a square-rigged vessel
8 Pampers
15 Deprive of fortitude
16 Superlatively desirable
17 More irritably impatient
18 Try again for admission
19 Pierre's pal
20 Preparing a surface for paint
22 Interoffice PC hookup
23 Nonsense!
25 Family groups
26 Hard or soft follower
27 Giving a right to
29 Finished, in France
30 Activity periods
31 Virgil's hero
32 Far from no-hitters
34 Descried
37 Expose to sunlight
41 Bedazzles
42 Against accepted dogma
43 Piquancy
44 Like the Antarctic
45 Twist out of shape
46 Cutoff point
47 Scholarly
49 Paid athlete
50 Sound skipping
52 Binds with cord
54 Like utilities
55 Satan
56 All __ go!
57 Sahara and Gobi



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

5/26/07

DOWN

1 Changes genetically
2 Sea polyp
3 Puts one's foot down
4 Tennis court divider
5 Cause to stumble
6 Become dark and gloomy
7 Exposing to danger
8 Removing a cylindrical sample
9 Unfolds
10 For men only
11 Drink little by little
12 Board at Heathrow
13 Hermes' winged sandals
14 Foxy characteristic
21 Jayne of movies
24 Sibilating
26 Artist Homer
28 Mah-jongg pieces
29 Offensive odor
31 Inclined to be bold
33 Required
34 Reveres
35 Cup of the NHL
36 Media gurus
38 AC/DC converter
39 Violent downpour
40 Unmasks
42 Harasses relentlessly
44 Introductory discourse
47 Ireland
48 Patronage
51 Matched collection
53 Flagon filler

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	R	T	S	■	M	A	H	■	M	H	O	S
H	U	B	E	R	T	■	A	D	E	L	A	I	D	E
U	T	O	P	I	A	■	G	O	R	I	N	E	S	S
L	O	V	E	S	Y	O	U	B	A	B	Y	■	■	■
A	R	E	N	T	■	L	E	E	■	■	■	C	P	A
■	■	■	T	E	L	L	Y	S	A	V	A	L	A	S
D	S	C	■	■	O	A	S	■	B	O	L	E	Y	N
A	N	A	L	O	G	S	■	J	A	W	B	O	N	E
R	O	M	A	N	O	■	F	A	B	■	■	S	E	R
Y	O	U	G	O	N	N	A	C	A	L	L	■	■	■
L	P	S	■	■	■	E	C	O	■	A	O	D	A	I
■	■	■	G	H	O	S	T	B	U	S	T	E	R	S
F	E	E	L	U	P	T	O	■	R	E	T	I	L	E
C	R	E	E	P	I	E	R	■	G	R	O	C	E	R
C	A	K	E	■	E	D	S	■	E	S	S	E	N	E

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5/26/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind and very strong opinions. Justice matters to you. You always champion the underdog. Although you're capable, strong and responsible, at times you're outrageous. This is due to your spontaneousness and impulsiveness. Nevertheless, you are extremely private in your personal life. Work hard to build or construct something this year. Your rewards will soon follow.
Birthdate of: Stevie Nicks, singer; Genie Francis, actress; Masaharu Morimoto, TV chef.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The Moon is opposite your sign today, which means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. It's not a big deal. You can do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A female coworker could figure prominently in your day today. There might also be something you feel indecisive about at work. (It's tough to make a decision.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a wonderful day to play, goof off and just have fun. Playful activities with children will delight. Enjoy sports, the arts or take in a movie.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Home, family and real estate situations are your primary focus today. Discussions with a family member, especially your mother, are significant.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel pulled in several directions today. It's a busy day. Just make a list and see if you can get half of it done. Go easy on yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're in the mood to shop today. Something having to do with your cash flow is strongly focused now. You might also give money to someone who needs it more than you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The Moon is in your sign today, and this always makes you a bit more emotional than usual. However, it can also bring you a little bit of extra good luck!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel a bit like hiding today. Work behind the scenes if you can. Try to get some rest. This weekend is a bit low-key for you. (But it can still be fun!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Make a point of talking to a female friend today. Someone needs to confide in you. (Perhaps the situation is reversed, and you need to confide in someone else.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Whatever you do today, for some reason, you will draw attention to yourself. Be aware of your words and actions. (Is your zipper done up?)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're a bit hungry for adventure today. You're definitely bored with routine. Try to do something different. Visit galleries, museums, parks and beautiful places.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to tie up loose details with insurance matters, inheritances, wills, estates and shared property. Take care of this to get it out of the way.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	8		6				2	
2			3					4
	6						5	
							9	7
			4	2	9			
1	3							
	2						4	
7					5			1
	4				6		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/26

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	2	3	5	7	6	1	8	9
8	9	7	1	2	3	6	5	4
6	5	1	9	4	8	2	3	7
9	8	6	4	3	2	7	1	5
2	1	4	6	5	7	8	9	3
7	3	5	8	9	1	4	2	6
5	6	9	2	8	4	3	7	1
3	4	8	7	1	9	5	6	2
1	7	2	3	6	5	9	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WATCH MY NECK. Francis Magalona wears Nike timepiece on his neck as he reviews his Rizalist reads

YELLOW VISION. Francis M wears Nike eyewear.

Francis M, ~~rapper~~, ~~TV celeb~~, ~~"Idol" judge~~, modern hero

By Pepe Diokno
Photos by Ramon Tan Manglis

SAVE THE RAPPER, SAVE the world. Kids who wanted to change Earth once dreamed of becoming president. Today, our presidents are kids—physically here, mentally across the Pacific. So now, kids who want to change the world dream of becoming other things—like rappers, for example.

Francis M grew up, in his words, seeing violence and democracy being curbed. He was in Grade Two when Martial Law was declared—he would read newspapers, and see how little freedom was around him.

"There's anger right there," he says after I ask him what his early raps were about. "Back in the day when hip hop was young, rap was used to voice out the sentiment of the disenfranchised. I didn't grow up in a comfortable environment. I [illegible] bicycle. I had my fair share of the street life. I'm a martial law baby—that's disenfranchised right there."

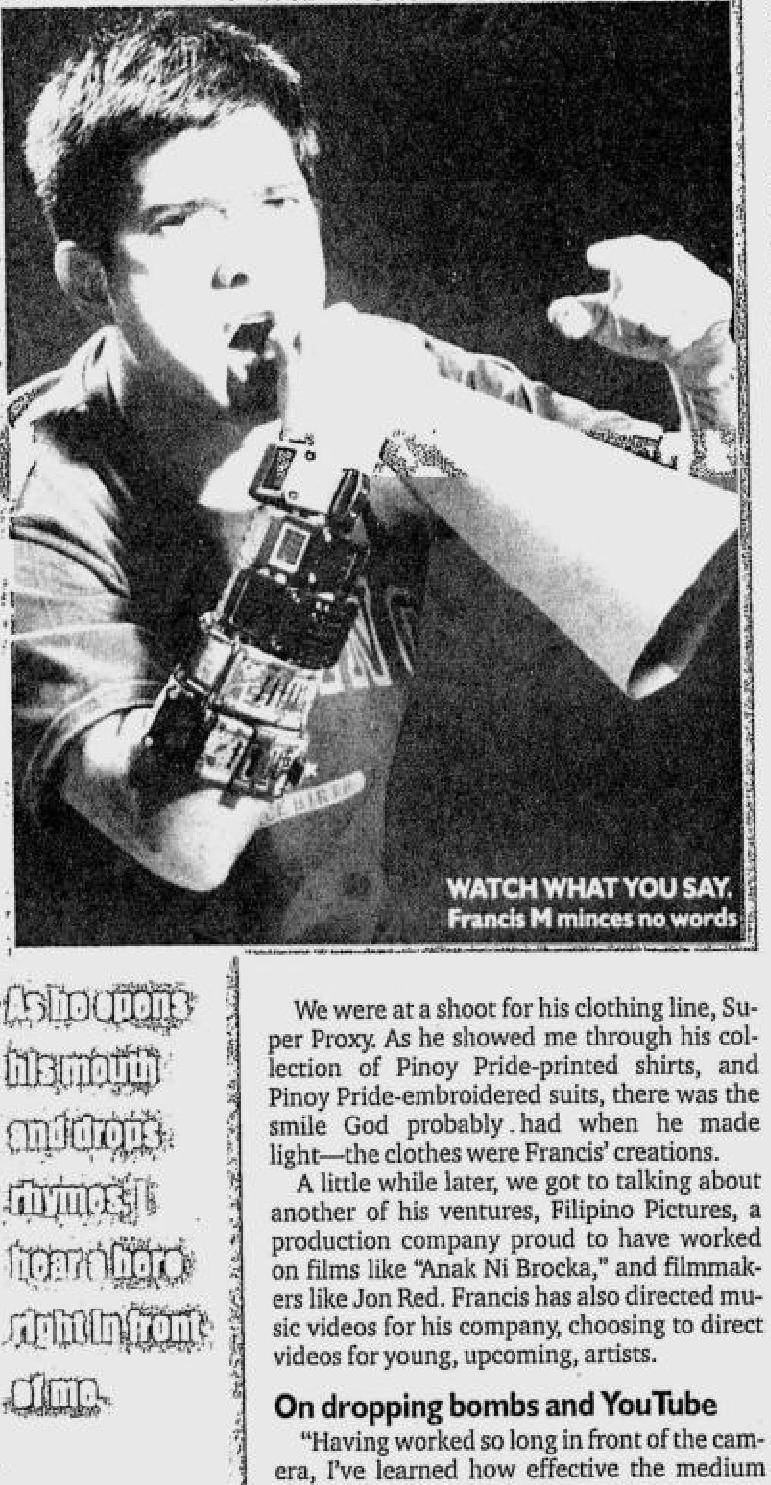
Fortunately, he took his anger, and wrote an anthem for a Philippine utopia. "Every color, every hue, is represented by me and you," he sang to 90's trademark electric guitars and drums, inspiring thousands of Filipino Gen-Xers.

Fast-forward more than a decade. Francis M received the highest achievement award at the MTV Philippines Awards last year. While fans and today's biggest stars all stood for a good long while to honor him, the award didn't seem too right. "Why him and why now?" was how I felt.

'Eat Bulaga' artista

Today, people see him make a fool of himself daily on the [illegible] noontime show 'Eat Bulaga,' [illegible] beside Andrew E, the ultimate purveyor of bad Pinoy rap. Rap isn't doing as well locally these days. Andrew E has a new album out. So what was a lifetime achievement award doing in the hands of Francis M, the rapper, this early in his life?

Francis stops me right there. "I'm not just a rapper," he says. And it's true. Just a few seconds with Francis, and you'll know he's more than the legend, he's more than the guy in an oversized high school uniform everyday on 'Eat Bulaga.'



WATCH WHAT YOU SAY. Francis M minces no words

As he opens his mouth and drops rhymes, I hear a hero right in front of me.

We were at a shoot for his clothing line, Super Proxy. As he showed me through his collection of Pinoy Pride-printed shirts, and Pinoy Pride-embroidered suits, there was the smile God probably had when he made light—the clothes were Francis' creations.

A little while later, we got to talking about another of his ventures, Filipino Pictures, a production company proud to have worked on films like "Anak Ni Brocka," and filmmakers like Jon Red. Francis has also directed music videos for his company, choosing to direct videos for young, upcoming, artists.

On dropping bombs and YouTube

"Having worked so long in front of the camera, I've learned how effective the medium can be. Let's face it, if you want to sway people's minds—you have to go visual: TV, DVD, film, YouTube, whatever," he says.

He talks the way a father does about a child when he talks about his photos. His pictures are expressions of serenity amidst action—a photo of a naked boy on the streets with the city skyline behind him; a pensive photo of a fiesta performer; a photo of his child's eye. Francis' pictures have won him top awards, and have gotten him probationary membership status at the elite Camera Club of the Philippines.

I also learn that Francis M has written folk songs and won Awit awards, he's been around the world with his music, he's working with all sorts of performers, both established and fresh. He recognizes the talent around him, and is one to give huge thumbs up to new talent. Of rapper Gloc 9, for example, he says, "He's a blacksmith of words and letters, and a true Filipino poet."

Platinum-winning, not rich

Francis does this all despite the fact that there is too little incentive to create in this country. He says, "I'm doing my ninth studio album. If I were in America, I'd be in my own helicopter right now. I'd have a Bentley; I'd have a Rolls Royce. Here, it would be a miracle if you're even paid royalties. 'Kalidoscope World' is a ringtone—I haven't seen a single cent from that. It's been used by other bands, by 'Philippine Idol'—I haven't seen royalties from that either.

"Here I am. I don't even have a driver. I'm supposedly this icon. I'm supposedly a pioneer, yet life goes on. And who cares anyway? What are riches? Riches are my family, my photographs … I just wanna create. This is my playground."

To you reading he says you better be sure to make your job your playground, too. He continues, "There are different ways of looking at stuff. It's not all about the money. It's about being fulfilled."

So, I realize that Francis M has changed the world—he just may not be too self-promoting. He has styled the world with Pinoy Pride, given a voice to Philippine music, and while not many may know of his achievements, most Filipinos know at least one of his lyrics.

Super! exclusive

And his lyrics are missiles, targeted at your hearts, making you explode into action—that's something he has been consistent with since he started. From "Kaleidoscope World" to his current track with Glock 9, "Lando," Francis' songs have been about the Filipino condition, and the keys to a bright Filipino future.

He has one lyric, though, that he has never released—it's a verse to "Mga Kababayan Ko." Francis M stands up in front of me, and starts rapping—it's an honor to hear this. As he opens his mouth and drops rhymes, I hear a hero right in front of me.

EYE AM what I am, Francis M

Tama na ang away
Ubos lakas sa [illegible]
Kapayapaan, kaunlaran
Ang aking [illegible]
Kawawang Juan
Kawawang Pedro
Kailan pa sila aasenso?
Sa kurakot wala tayong panalo
Tayo ng mga Pinoy ang laging
talo
Hoy, ang Pinoy hindi susuko
Lahat sabihing tayo'y [illegible]
Sa utang na parang lumulubog
Ang Pilipinas wag [illegible] ang
pagkukulang
Ang kasalanan ay pananagutan
Magmalinis ay huwag
Nakakalinis, marumi rin naman
Lahat tayo'y magkakapatid
Anomang mali ay ituwid
Magdasal sa Diyos na maykapal
Maging dangal at wag [illegible]
Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao
Tatlong bituin at isang araw
Palagi kong dinadasal ko
Mga Kababayan ko
Dapat lang malaman nyo
Bilib ako sa kulay ko
Ako ay Pilipino

Myths of the near future

One Internet insta-It chick, two rebranded music genres, three California anti-It dudes, and four other things that are simply the sexxxxxxx

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

IF YOU CARE TO LOOK OUTSIDE, YOU'LL notice that, *duh*, it's 2007. The landscape has changed somewhat. Waists are tragically moving up. Third World babies are the new Fendi Spy bags. No one below 30 watches normal TV anymore. Paris Hilton finds out that karma's a big bad bitch.

On the other hand, there are some things that are kinda the same. Nicole Richie is still fighting for her right to eat water for lunch. Lindsay Lohan is still possibly snorting hotdog-thick lines. (Hey, I predicted she'd spiral helplessly into porn in 2004. Respect.) And last I checked, Anna Nicole Smith is still dead. Yay!

But what really has us all jazzed up in Super! is that we're turning four. To document my feelings on our fourth year of existence—yes, it makes me laugh, shake my head, admire what we've accomplished (again—respect), cry, and then laugh again—I've come up with a mind map. Not any mind map, mind you, but a mind map on Red Bull.

ANDY WARHOL'S WET DREAM. Internet It girl Cory Kennedy reps today's equal-opportunity brand of fame

The things I've learned as a regular dispenser of wisdumb have been unspeakably awesome, *yo*. So for your pleasure, here's stuff that we'll surely look back on and laugh at (or not) this same time in year five. Behold, our Seven Myths of the Near Future.

1. If you're cute and you live online, becoming an insta-celebrity is highly likely.

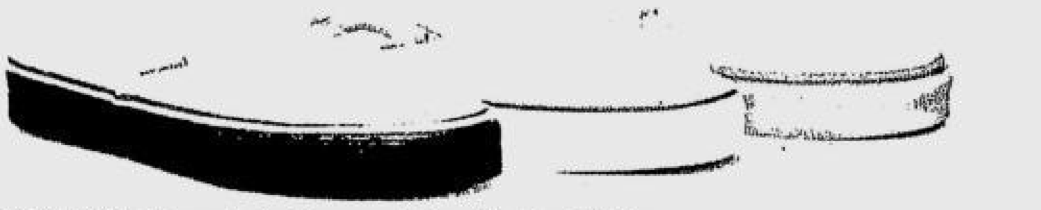
Call her Andy Warhol's wet dream, the perfect synthesis of technology, youth, and timing. In the summer of 2005, Cory Kennedy started leading a parallel life as a cyber It girl before her parents got a clue. Her photos started popping up all over Cobrasnake, a hipster-paparazzi shrine to LA urchins getting their party on.

The deeper he probed, the more Mark Hunter, the dude behind the moniker, noticed the direct connection between Cory's pics and increased web traffic from fashion fan sites. He saw that Cory Kennedy could burn it up for the teenage species as a model.

Now 17, Cory is what you'd call an insta-celebrity. Her MySpace fame has translated into cameos in glossy fashion rags from Italy and Argentina to both coasts of the US. She has likewise been art-directed to dangle like jailbait at nightclubs with the likes of Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan. All this came barely two years after a blog entry christened her the new "heroin chic chick." She's not even allowed to drink yet.

To fans and approving lurkers, Cory Kennedy reps today's equal-opportunity brand of fame. But to those that loathe her, she epitomizes the show-us-your-tits attitude of our generation, camwhoring the heck out of an online diary in the hopes of getting comments, "friends," and other forms of attention. Is Cory Kennedy an icon on the rise or a mere flashionista? Only time will tell, I guess.

ALL THE BUZZ. The cast of the CW's upcoming "Gossip Girl"



IT TAKES TWO. Upmarket x Downmarket = Winning Collabo

2. See, it takes more than giving good face to survive.

When it comes to *effing* mystique and restraint, the shiny Hollywood machine is the last place you'd think to look. But surprise, surprise. There are peeps in this narcissistic vein of LA that do not necessarily crave the constant glare of "Entertainment Tonight."

You may know him best as Louis Stevens from the Disney Channel hit "Even Stevens," but Shia LaBeouf has graduated from the tween factory to the box office. The Daytime Emmy Award-winning 20-year-old has since appeared in a slew of films, from "Holes," "Constantine," and "Bobby," to "Disturbia," this summer's "The Transformers," and next year's "Indiana Jones 4." After his stint at the Mouseketeer network, he has said that his left-of-center filmography is his way of "aging himself publicly."

THE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT. (From top) Shia LaBeouf, Emile Hirsch, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt

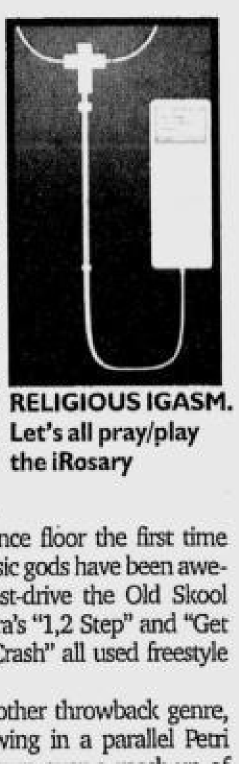
Another ex-TV moppet who has defied the kid actor curse is Joseph Gordon-Levitt. The now-26-year-old has clocked in facetime as Tommy Solomon in the late 90s TV show, "3rd Rock from the Sun," as well as the classic, "10 Things I Hate About You." However, it's his minimalist performances in underseen indies like "Brick," Mysterious Skin," and "Manic" that have endeared him to the anti-establishment firmament.

Last of the young playing-against-type players is Emile Hirsch. 2002's "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys," opposite Kieran Culkin, was his first-ever stab at the movies. That same year, he served up another coming-of-age drama, "The Emperor's Club." It was the flick "The Girl Next Door," however, that introduced him to the underage universe of teen magazines. He sprung back to serious actor mode in "Lords of Dogtown" and "Alpha Dog;" both were critically-acclaimed but again, criminally overlooked. That may all change when he plays adventurer Christopher McCandless in the Sean Penn-directed "Into the Wild" and the lead in next year's "Speed Racer."

3. Everything sounds new if your ears are fresh.

Music never ever dies. It just gets remixed. One musical movement in the nip/tuck process is freestyle. Hitting its peak in 1989, the genre-also called Latin hiphop, since Hispanic and Italian-American kids were down with it—was a fusion of '70s disco vocal styles and choppy '80s electro. In the 1990s, house music tore up the scene and lent its cadence to the genre, creating a sound clash called freestyle-house.

Pockets of dancing peeps have kept the underground genus alive since then. In Miami, for example, a Latin radio station chucked their reggaeton music blocks to make way for freestyle playlists. This year, spring breakers in the Sunshine State krumped to an unlikely anthem: "Spring Love 2007," a collaboration between Miami rapper Pitbull and legendary freestyle artist Stevie B, the brother behind the 1988 hit, "Spring Love."



RELIGIOUS IGASM. Let's all pray/play the iRosary

We may not have been around to heat up the dance floor the first time around, but at least the music gods have been awesome enough to let us test-drive the Old Skool sounds 00's-style. Yup, Ciara's "1,2 Step" and "Get Up" and Gwen Stefani's "Crash" all used freestyle samples.

Don't look now, but another throwback genre, hiphouse, is similarly brewing in a parallel Petri dish. Basically rhymes thrown over a mash-up of house and hiphop, this post-freestyle type of music is poised to make a comeback, too. If DJ Mark Ronson's East Village Radio show is on the money, the track that will set booties on fire this summer is "Pussly'ole" by UK garage prodigy Dizzee Rascal. The oldies may call it cheesy. I think it's fresh.

4. Technology is definitely our religion.

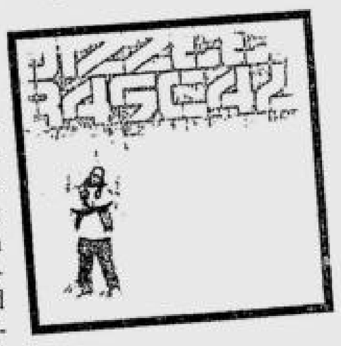
Don't be scurred—a belated April Fool's Day joke this ain't. Yanko Design's Tino Dobra has designed an interface for praying the rosary on the iPod: the iRosary. It uses standard iPod earbuds and a single bead to help a person learn the staple prayer. Expect serious Cathoholics to call the idea a mushroom-cloud-blocks-Jesus event. But think about it: Saying the rosary is boring to the young'uns. The iPod is not boring to the young'uns. Mashing up the two can help make God cool again. The truly religious should experience a toe-curling iGasm asap.

5. Fashion design is a team sport.

Whoever said that Upmarket x Downmarket fashion fusion was dead is, well, dead wrong. Topping the can't-miss list are Rei Kawakubo's work with Speedo as well as Junya Watanabe's Converse goodies. Speaking of retro kicks, the Marc Jacobs x Vans sneaker experiment is still going strong, proving that anything limited edition will always be bear-hugged.

In terms of clothing, there seems to be no end to mass market labels getting bumped up to first class. H&M has gone to bed with Karl Lagerfeld and Uniqlo, the Japanese H&M, is boogying with mad geniuses Phillip Lim and former Cloak designer Aleksandr Plokhov. Of course, American behemoth Gap has also launched capsule collections by Thakoon, Rodarte, and Roland Mouret. Last, budget fashionistas have been shedding tears of joy at Target's Go International line, conceived by such names as Libertine and Patrick Robinson.

Slightly less high street but a collabo nonetheless, the majorly banker-y Brooks Brothers has tapped menswear fave Thom Browne to bring them into the 21st century. Browne has married Brooks Brothers' heritage-think classic men's fabrics perfect for Dad-with his own skinny hipster sensibilities. And so the copping continues.



GET BUSY TO DIZZEE. Dizzee Rascal's hiphouse throwback "Pussly'ole" is set your booty on fire

6. Mid-century modern is so yesterday. Again.

If the sight of another Eames chair makes you vomit in your mouth, panic no more. According to New York Magazine's David Colman, circa-1980 design is the next Mid-Century. 50's shelter styles have been co-opted to death, so pieces by early 80's designers-cum-decorators, including Californian Charles Hollis Jones and New Yorker Karl Springer, are suddenly hot collectibles.

Compared to the pared down look of Scandi design, the decadence of python-covered mirrors makes everything refreshing. And despite returning to the larger-than-life vibe, neon colors are thankfully not part of the commitment.

7. But good old-fashioned teen dramas live on.

The pitch: Based on Cecily von Ziegesar's "Gossip Girl" novels, the CW drama series features teen Park Avenue Princesses struggle with being born posh. Kinda like "Cruel Intentions," but, like, richer.

The verdict: Though it will be aired later this year, advance buzz has been good since "The O.C."'s Josh Schwartz is on board as executive producer. Entertainment Weekly's website has also reported that Kristen Bell, star of the just-canceled "Veronica Mars," will be narrating as the "Gossip Girl" herself. Sounds hella juicy? I expect this show to make those "Laguna Beach" kids look totally, totally ghetto. Ha.

EAMES STAY OUT. The 80s is the new Mid-Century

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- Multi-slot memory card reader; 2.4" image display
- Built in Ethernet / wireless networking

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Per DTI Permit No. 1382, Series of 2007

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style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Four things to know and forget about

OUT THE WINDOW

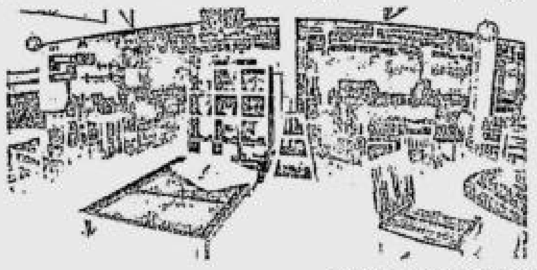
Tals Diaz

IT WAS DISORIENTING.

As I'm used to being the one armed with a notebook, a tape recorder, and a barrage of pesky questions all these years, you can bet it was a strange feeling to find myself on the other side.

More than a few times had I been invited to dispense advise to precocious high school teenagers and wide-eyed college students on writing, as well as how to bust into the industry of telling people what they should know and do. (I meant media, of course, and not organized religion). I was once asked for advice to give "aspiring young writers." I'm all too familiar with that phrase; it's the same one I use on my interview sub-

FOUR/E2



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Western Union shares tips on shopping for back-to-school items on budget

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Four things to know and forget about

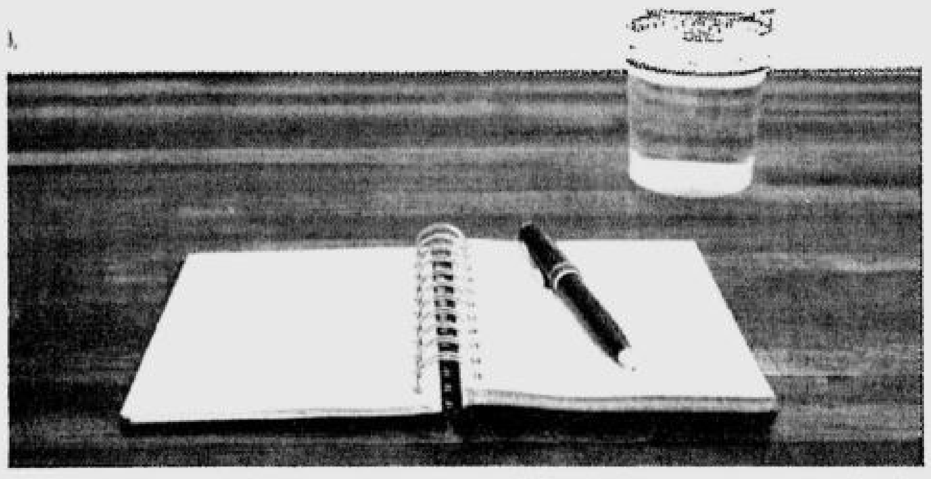
From page E1

jects when I run out of questions to ask.

My advice? Get struck in traffic a lot. And sleep a lot. Bewildered looks ensued all around.

While it's true that I meant that it's usually when I'm glued to the concrete highway that I get to think best on what to write about, and that I find it very useful to be attuned to dreams, my bigger point was that writing techniques differ from person to person.

Case in point, in a Creative Writing class during my post-grad years in Australia, I had a professor who said that she wrote her ideas on Post-Its and stuck them on the floor and stared at them until she discovered a thread that connected the disjointed concepts. (You could say it was a Keyser Söze writing strategy.) Those ideas turned into paragraphs, which she also wrote on Post-Its and eventually strung into an actual novel. So I followed her advice and tried doing that, and at the end of it all, I remember accomplishing the impossible feat of downing pints of beer at a nearby Irish pub – where I eventually found my story ideas. You can never tell where things lead to when you don't follow the rules. Four years ago, Super! inadvertently became a fantastic writing teacher. Why so? For one, it gave me a weekly deadline, kind of like "regular homework" as a good friend put it once, which forced me to discipline myself to find time to sit down, scribble and type until I eventually clicked the "Send" button.



As with all art and skill, it requires regular practice.

Super! likewise taught me to pay closer attention to the ever-changing world, and to listen to what people are saying and not saying.

I discovered a very important lesson about writing, and that was the fact that there is no writing without living. I realized that what became my current writing philosophy was actually an offshoot of my life philosophy. In that way, life and writing had become inseparable. Now, I wish I had said that when I was giving those career talks.

So, in celebration of four years of Super! I'm going retroactive and sharing four personal philosophies about writing and life, which you may or may not heed.

More Than A Writer, Become A Wordsmith. (Or, create something when there was once nothing, and hope it catches on.)

I first heard "wordsmith" from an old boss, talented writer and Palanca Hall of Famer, Dean Alfar. Far from being a scary traditional boss, he would literally pull me out of my work chair and extract me from the keyboard so we could play this vocabulary-building board game called UpWords. There'd be times he'd even tell me to stop doing the work he had previously asked me to do so he'd have someone to play with.

To write well, I believe, one must enjoy words. Words are fun, really! And many times at the Super! desks, we developed this habit of making up words to attach to the extraordinary nuances of the pop culture sphere we had to cover. Taking the cue from the Washington Post's Mensa ... okay, more like taking our cue from gossip websites and blogs that coined "Brangelina" and "Bennifer," we came up with our own words and supplied our own definitions like:

"Coolturatti" – The clever and stylish segment of the populace that dictated all things hip

"Technosexual" – a person with a technological bent

"Emoticonfusion" – the state of bewilderment that arises when there is no smiley attached to a text

"Sinspiration" – An evil idea

"Flashionista" – a flash in the pan fashionista, or someone who dresses well only once in a while

"Baklash" – what happens when a group of gay guys collectively exact revenge.

"Headonist" – one who finds pleasure in mental pursuits

Write What You'd Like To Read (Or, channeling Gandhi, be the change you wish to see)

The Italian author, Italo Calvino, once wrote that when he was 28 and unsure whether he'd continue writing, he began doing what came most naturally to him, which was "following the memory of the things I had loved best since boyhood. Instead of writing what I ought to write, I conjured up what I myself would have liked to read, the sort by an unknown writer, from another age and another country, discovered in an attic."

A writer is also a reader, and in that sense, is never alone. My guidepost has been as simple as asking, do you like reading your own work?

Actually Know Something (Or, true substance can never be abused)

How many times have I come across something truly outstanding and thought to myself, now how the hell did he do that? I realized that conviction is born out of experience, and that inevitably impresses itself onto the page. "To write is to know something," Susan Sontag once shared. "What a pleasure it is to read a writer who knows a great deal."

Punctuate Everything With Style (Or, be afraid of being ordinary and mediocre)

I always remember the words of my Capoeira master:

"Style! Style! Or else you'll just be boring." In teaching us about better movement, he instilled in us how important it is to put style into everything we do. In life and in writing, being boring is about the worst thing you could possibly be.

Now forget everything, and just live.

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Middle of the world

Being yourself and living well amidst all the distractions are–surprise–still possible

"UPSIDE-DOWN trees swingin' free,
Busses float and buildings dangle:
Now and then it's nice to see
The world-from a different angle"
—Shel Silverstein

Text and photos by James Gabrillo

I'VE BEEN WITH SUPER! FOR ALMOST two years. I'm being entirely honest when I say that until now, I'm still wondering what an ordinary bloke like me is doing in a section that has a particular reputation (a little unfair at that) of favoring humans who would rather spend time (or "chillax," as they say it) in the most hip and happenin' places, yo.

My pals will attest to the fact that I am probably the most uncool person they've ever met. Unlike the majority of the kiddos in my generation, I'm not entirely convinced with the Orwellian newspeak categories of cool, totally cool, and awesome. I'm obsessed with action figures, martial arts and Math, and my Mac has a name, which—let's be honest—is quite geeky.

On a Saturday night, you will most probably find me either at a bookstore trying to look smart, or at our university's sprawling field, eating *isaw*. And as much as I would not like to reveal this, my real lone purpose every time I go to Embassy is to drink the lychee shake in the Cafeteria. But I digress.

See, I sometimes forget that aside from style, style, style, this section also very much espouses individuality, and being true to one's self. And this has incredibly inspired hordes of readers.

Of men and shoes

A professor once told us in class that "If you're a shoemaker, be the best shoemaker there is. Don't try to be a doctor." One important lesson I've learned from the past years is that whoever you are, or whatever your state in life may be, you can do something sizeable. Think for a second how beautiful that is.

Since its birth, this section has been rallying for every *superpinoy* to get hold of a superiority complex in his or her direct environment. We've been pushing you to discern

that hey, you can actually change things wherever you are.

T.S. Eliot once wrote, "There is a very large number of people in the world today who believe that all ills are fundamentally economic." The glitch is that we tend to confuse ourselves by treating reality based on what is plainly negotiated—engrossing too much on ideologies, and forgetting that people are starving.

Ironically, we humans choose to focus the binoculars on the bigger problems, which are really impossible to be solved instantaneously. History has taught us again and again that there is no other way to get out of an excruciating mess than by starting with our own selves, by being the best shoemaker in the world.

Less is more

As Super! caps off its fouith year as your sage

MIDDLE/ E4

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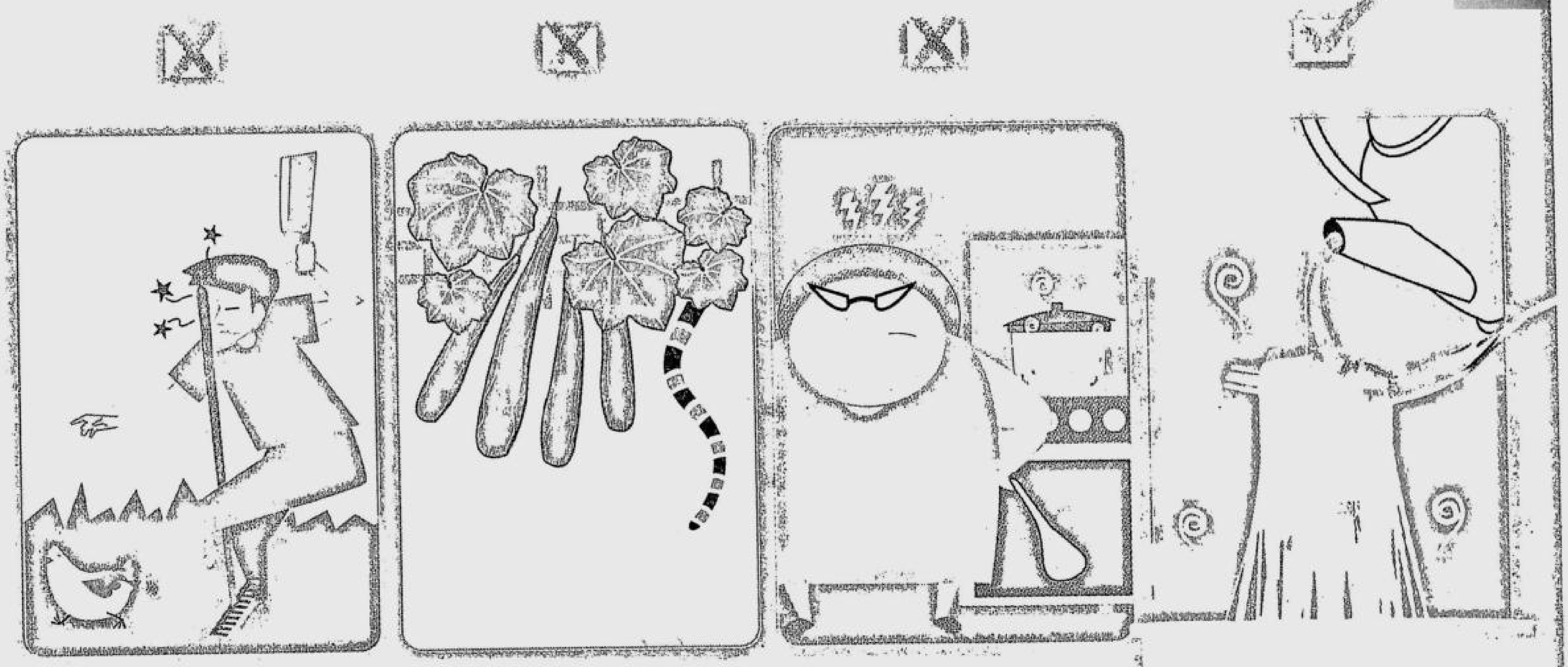

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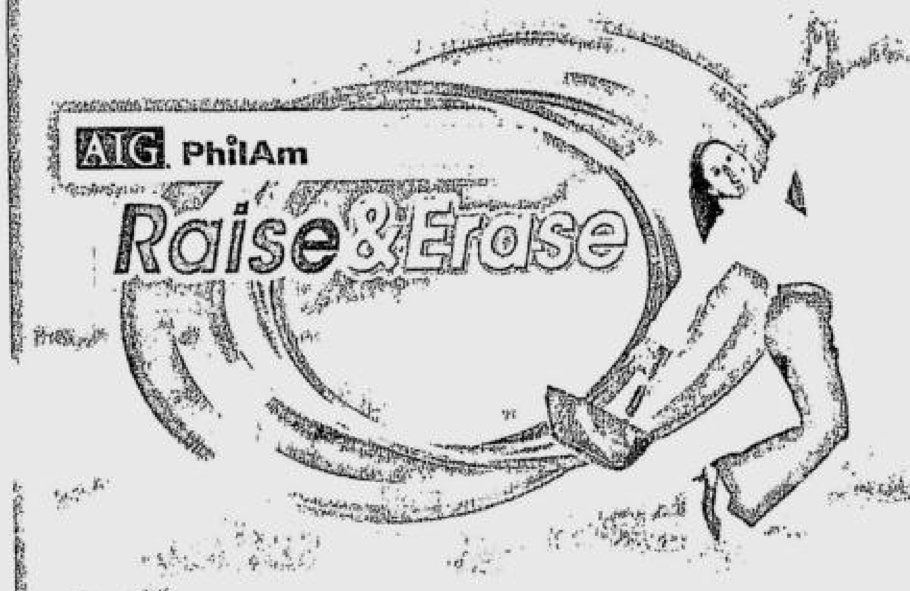

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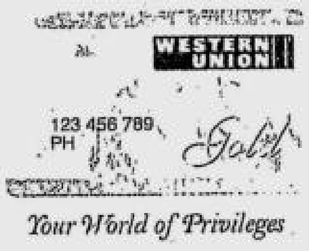

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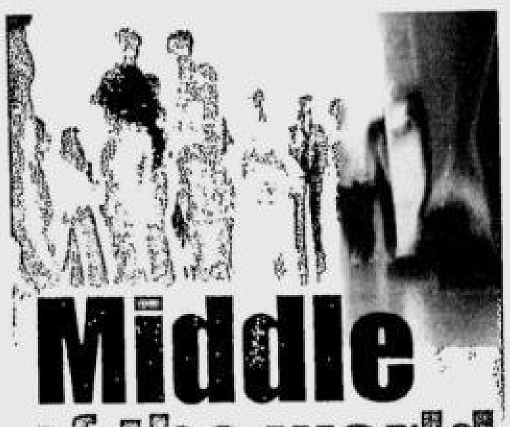

Middle of the world

From page E2

in style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment, and recreation, we encourage you to be at the forefront of it all by becoming everyone's hero. Sounds too big of a task? Know that being heroic doesn't require you to battle with orange dragons, pink ogres, and purple dogs. God is in the details, so your little acts mean big.

Start by honking if you hate hegemony. In times when everyone is speaking the same language based on his or her chosen demographic cluster—another irony as language is collapsing back on itself more than ever—we say, go and be simple.

Everyday living is already too bombarded by disloyalty, selfishness, Wowowee, and a certain boxer who took a shot at Congress' pork barrel. Enough of the complexity and more focus on the fundamentals, which ultimately are the ones that would really matter.

Learn to not make concessions to conformity easily. In societies where magic is regarded as an everyday reality, words as incantations matter so much—an extreme yet inspiring example that the word still holds a lot of power. So speak up!

When George Bush took out the funds of the Hubble Space Station thus blinding us on the universe and on cosmological science, the majority refused to stand up and articulate their fear that their technologically-based American empire will wither.

Why be afraid of the dark?

Then, break the moulds. Don't be besieged if you're not creating waves at the start. The Latin adage says it all: "Gutta carat lapidem saepe cadendo." A drop of water constantly falling on a stone eventually wears a hole in it. Humans weren't created to simply roll their tongues and have popularity contests. This may be surprising for some, but we actually exist to do something with our lives.

Often, the spiral of silence impedes us to take that next step. We become afraid that our little views will eventually be stomped by the overwhelming majority. Scared of isolation and reprisal, we allow ourselves to be maneuvered into a corner.

We're content with our modified risk orientation and our ability to enjoy music with a beat. But, really? There has got to be more than that. Remember that there would have been no scientific revolution if not for the guy who raised his hand and said let's change everything.

Here's to you

Once I read about this guy who believed the speculation that below the 25,000-feet sea level, there exist certain bioluminescent sea creatures that all have absolutely no idea about the current state of life. The guy wrote about his plan of hunting them down, netting them, demanding to know which of the Friends is their favorite.

Human beings cannot be like creatures swimming in the sea, oblivious to the world above them. We all have to get out of the water and see the world from a spanking new perspective. At the same time, we should not allow ourselves to turn into that rude guy, who dreams of destroying corals for the sake of private gain. "In all things, a balance must be struck," as Obiwan Kenobi puts it.

Finally, fall in love. It's the greatest thing on earth, so much better than the feeling of driving a 1958 Corvette convertible or singing the Billy Ray Cyrus song Achy-Breaky Heart on a mountain peak, while watching the sunset, after a nice drizzle. This means being more trusting, more generous, more grateful, more human—a proof that yes, we still know how to feel.

As we enter our fifth year, know that we will remain your vanguard in proving that hip does not have to mean empty. We won't really say explicitly that it's top priority that we all think out of the box. For us and hopefully for you, there is no box to begin with.

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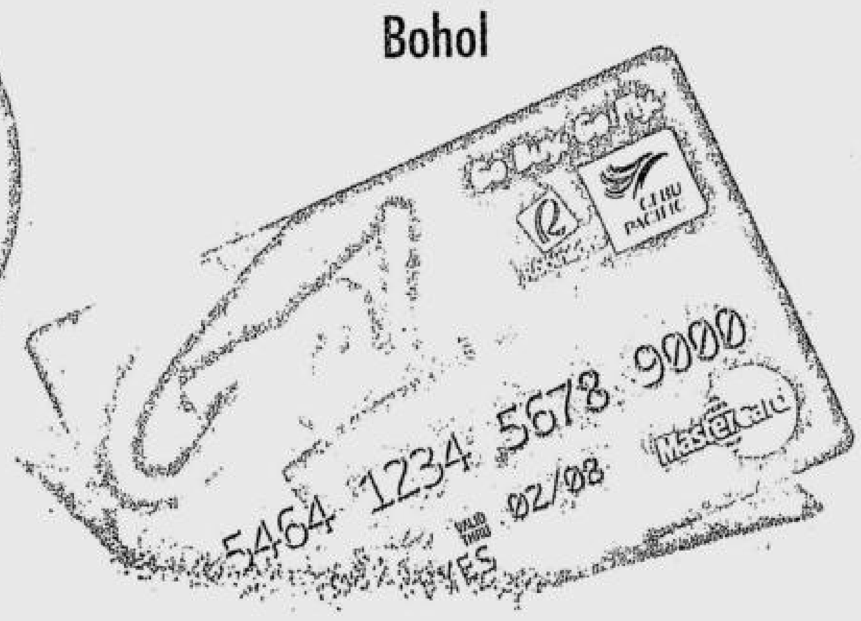

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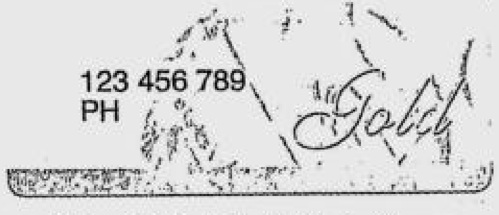

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IN THIS ISSUE

Sparks fly high in 'AI' finals /F4

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SATURDAY *Special*

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One-two punch *from* Avril Lavigne

LAVIGNE. Her single, "Girlfriend," displaced Timbaland, Nelly Furtado and Justin Timberlake's collaborative single on top of Billboard's Hot 100 chart.

By Rito P. Asilo

LAST MAY 5, AVRIL LAVIGNE delivered an impressive one-two punch when her third album, "The Best Damn Thing," her follow-up to 2004's "Under My Skin," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart.

The disc's carrier song, "Girlfriend," also displaced the previous week's No. 1 single, "Give It to Me"—Timbaland's groove-heavy collaboration with Justin Timberlake and Nelly Furtado—on top of Billboard's Hot 100 chart.

Twin feats

Lavigne's career-best twin feats are well-deserved. The 22-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter's 12-song lineup dazzles with its brave, vibrant sound and catchy, dance-floor hooks. "Girlfriend," for one, is reminiscent of The Go-Gos' catchy bubblegum energy, and the Pussycat Dolls' celebratory feminist sentiments.

Fortunately, her youthful sound doesn't merely thrive on copycat stylings: Indeed, some elements of her songs will remind you of other "angry" female songstresses—from Alanis Morissette and Tori Amos to Sarah McLachlan and Paula Cole. Most of Lavigne's music, however, is undoubtedly hers.

Accessible

What makes her songs accessible—or commercially viable—is the fact that, while her lyrics are far from being simplistic, she doesn't intellectualize too much to impress ("Innocence," "Contagious"), a characteristic that hinders the brilliant Regina Spektor from finding widespread commercial acceptance. In "When You're Gone," or in the rousing ballad, "Keep Holding On," Lavigne wears her heart on her sleeve without relying too much on schmaltz.

In "Girlfriend" and the exuberantly addictive "The Best Damn Thing," the hooks are infectious, bold and playful without sounding generic. In the mid-tempo "Keep Holding On" (from the movie, "Eragon"), the anthemic vocal and melodic arrangements will make you hum along.

In her third collection after the awkward but nevertheless best-selling debut, "Let Go" (2002)—which contained the smash single, "Complicated"—and the lackluster "Under My Skin," the key to Lavigne's more cohesive repertoire is in the writing. She co-writes all 12 tracks with dynamic collaborators like Butch Walker and Evan Taubenfeld.

Happily, the singer's more confident artistic grip has resulted in less pretentious musical innovations—from the empowering girly rants in "Everything Back But You" to the soaring "I Can Do Better."

Taste

It's interesting to note that Lavigne's recent chart-topping feats have revealed contemporary pop's ever-evolving taste and sound. Here are other interesting developments in the music charts:

Things are looking up for Michael Buble's slick new album, "Call Me Irresponsible," which we reviewed in this section two weeks ago. It debuted auspiciously at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 last week, and reached No. 1 this week—the highest chart position ever reached by the Canadian crooner! Buble's previous, platinum-selling effort, 2005's "It's Time," peaked only at No. 7!

But, the biggest surprise this week is the entry of Barbra Streisand's latest recording, "Live in Concert 2006," which entered the chart at No. 7. The 65-year-old icon is the bestselling female-album artist of all time.

As for the steel-voiced alumni of "American Idol": Chris Daughtry's first album, "Daughtry," which wrestled the No. 1 spot recently, is now on its 25th week, and continues its strong showing by placing sixth this week.

Sturdier legs

Showing sturdier legs, however, is 2005 winner Carrie Underwood's first effort, "Some Hearts," which may have only peaked at No. 2, but stays strong at No. 8—78 weeks after it was first released!

Season Three's Fantasia Barrino's second collection peaked at only No. 19 when it debuted more than five months ago, and has since considerably dipped—to No. 93!

Elliott Yamin's eponymous debut may have peaked at No. 3, but after eight weeks, it has gone down to No. 67. The albums of last year's champ, Taylor Hicks (2006), and Bucky Covington charted at No. 2 and 4, respectively—but they have since vanished from the Top 100!

Sure, the "AI" crown or affiliation guarantees instant fame. Unfortunately, sustained success and longevity are another matter!

Fil-Am sizzler is newest member of the Pussycat Dolls

NITOLLANO. Verve and exceptional talent.

By Nestor U. Torre

THE POPULAR Pussycat Dolls recently launched a search for a new member of the group. Hundreds of young singer-dancers with dreams of stardom dancing in their eyes auditioned for the big break, but only a few of them were tapped as semi-finalists. They were then rigorously trained and periodically evaluated on point of their improvement in the Pussycat Dolls' sexy and sometimes even raunchy performance mode.

Search

The search was chronicled on a reality TV show that aired on local cable some weeks ago. As we

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THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

For Jeanne Lim, it's never too late to pursue a writing career

By Edmund L. Sicam

LIM. Infectious optimism.

FOR SOMEONE WHO STARTED late in the game, 56-year-old Jeanne Lim has already amassed several prestigious writing awards that would make younger writers envious.

Since Jeanne wrote her first script in 1995, she has already won third place in the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines (FDFP) Scriptwriting Contest in 1999, was one of 10 finalists in the same contest in 1996 and 1997; and won three times in the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature.

This year, Jeanne's "Gulong" is one of 10 finalists that will be shown in the Cinemalaya Film Festival in July.

Home economics

That's impressive, indeed, since Jeanne herself admits, she was not interested in writing during her school days. She studied home economics and went into the food business.

Then, in 1995, Jeanne heard that the FDCP was holding a scriptwriting contest. Her first attempt was a love story that was inspired by movies she had watched. The script didn't make it.

Jeanne, however, was not ready to turn her back on writing. When she heard that the FDFP was holding a workshop for aspiring screenwriters, she signed up for the program. "It was handled by NUT," recalls Jeanne. "During our initial meeting, he told me, 'I remember your script—but for the wrong reasons.'"

Experience

The intensive workshop was an eye-opener for Jeanne. Invited guests lecturers like Eddie Romero and Ishmael Bernal lent their expertise to the group. It was a grueling experience (only 28 out of the original 109 students finished the course), but Jeanne was an eager student, absorbing everything that was thrown at her.

For the final project, each student was required to come up with a full-length script. In order to concentrate on her script, Jeanne rented a condo for two months. "

Jeanne's hard work paid off. Her script, "Tradisyon," made it to the Top 10 in 1996. She was elated that her second effort was picked. Says Jeanne, "*Tuwang-tuwa ako*. I told myself, 'I can write *pala*!'"

Last year, she got an excerpt from one of her full-length scripts and turned it into a bizarre eight-minute short film, "No Passport Needed," for Cinemalaya. It was chosen as one of the 10 that were shown at last year's film fest.

It was truly a ragtag production. The total budget was P11,000—most of which went to film equipment rental. For lights, she and her director, Pepe Diokno III, went to Recto ave. and bought lights at three for P100!

Dream come true

This year, Jeanne's dream of making a full-length feature film is finally coming true. Several years ago, she had submitted a screenplay titled "Gulong" to the Palanca awards. It did not make it.

She decided to turn it into a full-length play, instead. This time, the Palanca judges considered it meritorious enough to win second place in 2004.

Last year, the script was submitted to Cinemalaya and made it to the final 10.

NUT suggested to Cinemalaya officials that Sockie Fernandez could direct "Gulong." Although Sockie has not directed a feature length film, she has an impressive record as a director of commercials.

The entry of Sockie proved to be a blessing for Jeanne. Since the subsidy provided by Cinemalaya is often not enough to fund a film, Sockie managed to get funding from various sources.

The cast was also impressive. It includes Barbara Perez, Robert Arevalo, Gary Valenciano, Gardo Verzosa, Odette Khan, Lou Veloso, and Tricia Amper- Jimenez. Sockie also brought in award-winning cinematographer, Lee Meily, to shoot "Gulong."

"Gulong" concerns three children whose quest for a bike has unexpected results. The idea for the script started with a plate of *pancit canton*. "I had cooked *pancit canton* for my nieces and told them that it contained 'tenga ng daga.' They were horrified and said they did not want to partake of rat's ears. I had to explain to them that they were actually edible fungi. This got me thinking about a script concerning children with active imaginations. I also named the main character Apolinario Manalo, after a close friend, Rey Manalo, whom I got to know in scriptwriting class. He's one guy who doesn't give up, like the characters in my story."

Professionals at work

Several weeks ago, Jeanne traveled all the way to Pila, Laguna, where Sockie was shooting her film. She was so impressed at how professional everything was.

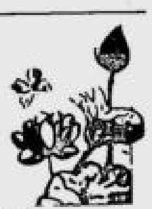
Now that the film is almost complete, Jeanne can pay attention to an urgent personal problem: She is scheduled to go under the knife next week for a kidney transplant. When I interviewed her a few days ago, she didn't look worried or scared about the operation.

Asked about her positive outlook, she replied, "I am in good hands. Just like my script is in good hands. So, why should I worry?"

Why indeed? Jeanne's optimism is infectious. Already, she's looking ahead to late July, when "Gulong" will be shown at the CCP. She's also thinking of the script she will submit to next year's Cinemalaya!

Finding peace and acceptance

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, there was a princess named Rukmini. She was kind and compassionate. One time, her brother, Rukmi, committed an atrocious act, for which he was punished. The princess got depressed over her brother's suffering. We'd like to share the Supreme Person's words of wisdom to Rukmini:

Consequences

"Do not worry about your brother. Everyone suffers the consequences of his own actions. Partiality or neutrality in friendship is practiced by people who are stuck in the bodily concept of life. The illusory energy of the Supreme Lord bewilders them. The purity of the spirit-soul has the same quality as any material embodiment.

"But, for persons whose intelligence isn't sufficient, they only see the differences between animals and men, the literates and illiterates, and the rich and the poor. Comparing those differences is like comparing fire produced from different types of fuel—the quality of fire remains the same.

"Acknowledging material existence can be compared to sleeping and dreaming. When a man sleeps, he dreams of fictional situations. As a result, he is subjected to different emotions—from happiness to distress.

"Similarly, when a person dreams of material things, he suffers the effects of accepting a material body. When a man is elevated to the spiritual plane, he is freed from false conceptions.

"My sweet Rukmini, don't feel aggrieved by false motives caused by ignorance. They only make you unhappy. Find happiness by discussing the true philosophies of life!"

After hearing the Supreme Person's enlightening words, Rukmini finally found peace and tranquility in her heart.

Communication goes pffft on the boob tube

By Behn Cervantes

THESE DAYS, MOST TELEVISION personalities think their mere presence on the small screen is a form of communication. In a manner of speaking, their cocky demeanor says paragraphs—at least, about their attitude. They say they don't care much to clarify the issues about them. They merely string incoherent words together and end up saying very little.

Tendency

I especially note this tendency among newscasters and the guests they exploit for "information support" or "clarification." Rarely, do they ever clarify matters, because they tend to use general statements that put unwanted words into guests' mouths. Why?

For one thing, many newscasters use the lingo of the streets, so it doesn't matter if the discussion is of vital importance, they are "gonna" continue talking as though they were on some *kanto* of New York, or they will "wanna" have their guests clarify the issue in similar language.

The differences in language are clearest when a local newscaster interviews an international personality: Note that, while the latter uses formal language and strives for precision in his use of words, the local newscaster continues to use "gonna" and "wanna"—as though he were having an informal but heated discussion with a friend in a Makati beer joint!

The problem can be traced to the fact that many newscasters follow the example set by some of our most successful television personalities. They often mistake glibness for substance—they are capable of talking a mile a minute without really saying much.

Issues

This becomes even more blatant when small-time bureaucrats and military and police officials insist on discussing issues in English, when they are obviously more comfortable in one of our regional languages. Gone are the days when local bureaucrats took pride in speaking Balagtas' tongue. There are guests who explain their position in Tagalog, but they do so with a series of "*di bas*" or "*ang anos*." You don't understand what the heck they're talking about!

Trap

Guests are sometimes caught in a trap of their own making, but the television personality who could rescue them allows them to dig their graves deeper. Instead of altering the situation, the mindless personality rolls on his merry way, to the consternation of the thinking viewer.

Of course, there are newscasters more guilty of this "sin" than others. Why their superiors have not called their attention to this kind of language abuse is a mystery to me! Fortunately, there are TV personalities who still use formal language correctly.

For the unenlightened, they can catch CNN and BBC announcers who don't use "wanna" and "gonna" sloppily. Since we're not lacking in good examples, why those errant newscasters continue to "bastardize" the language is beyond me!

Fil-Am sizzler is newest member of the Pussycat Dolls

ASIA sang and danced with the confidence and flair of a real pro.

From page F1

watched the show, we saw that quite a number of Fil-Am talents had made it to the semi-finals.

Contenders

As they shimmied and gyrated with the other contenders, we saw that they had toned down the "Fil" and upped the heat on the "Am" side of their hyphenated duality.

This reminded us of the time decades ago when we caught the performance of a Fil-Am singer-dancer on Broadway. As we watched her solo number, we saw that the "Fil" in her had practically disappeared, and she now projected more like a Chicana (Latin) talent than an Asian.

The same forced transformation happened to the Fil-Am finalists in the Pussycat Dolls tilt, and we felt sad once more. But we saw that, to the girls, it was a necessary transformation, because it was likely that there would be no place in the sizzling performing group for a "shy" and "sweet" Asian talent.

After the long search, the winner was finally announced—and, what do you know?, she was Fil-Am Asia Nitollano! As we've noted, there was little that *was* Asian in her performance, but she *did* stand out.

Fact is, Asia's victory was rather controversial, because she wasn't the best-looking finalist in the tilt. She was probably the smallest and darkest, to boot. So, what did she have that enabled her to trounce the great-looking competition?

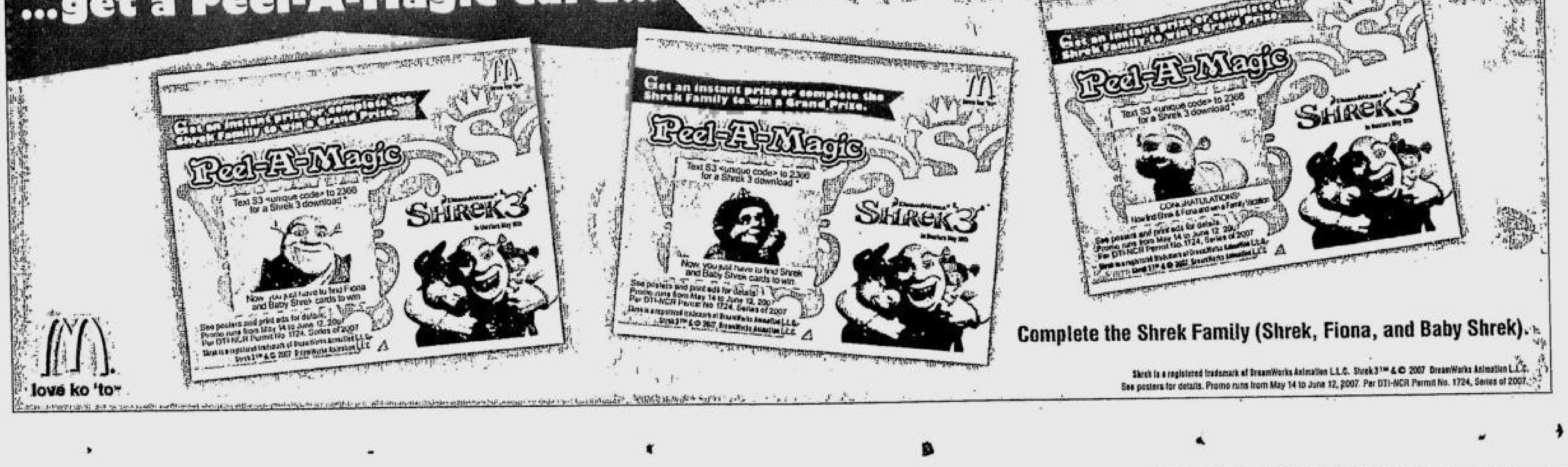
The Pussycat Dolls' reality show provided the answer: Yes, Asia wasn't a looker, but she sang and danced with the confidence and flair of a real pro.

As the girls performed together, she caught viewers' attention with her verve and exceptional talent. —So, never mind if the decision "shocked" some people, the hotly-contested slot in the Pussycat Dolls was hers!

Encouraging

Let this be an encouraging example for other people who join competitions without expecting to do well in them: The trick is to just do your best—and let the judges do the rest.

In other people's eyes, you may not be a winner, but if you have whatever it is the judges are looking for, you've got it made! The thing is *not* to second-guess them—just give the performance of your life, and let *them* decide.



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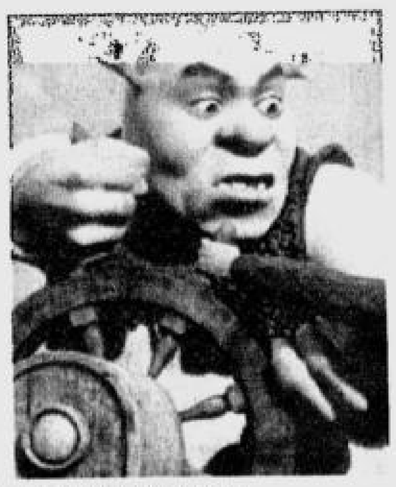
See posters for details. Promo runs from May 14 to June 12, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1724, Series of 2007.

'SHREK' entertains despite glitches

By Nestor U. Torre



THE LOVABLE ogre contemplates the daunting challenge of fatherhood.

EVERY "SHREK" MOVIE IS A should-see production for lovers of entertaining and inspiring animated features. Its resident ogre, his lovely and loyal princess bride Fiona, sidekicks Donkey and Puss in Boots, the Frog King, and all sorts of iconic fairy tale characters spoofed to within an inch of their Technicolor lives—these and other plus points make the "Shrek" films uniquely appealing!

But, it turns out that even that special appeal can be of limited value. "Shrek 3" is entertaining enough; but its appeal pales in comparison to earlier "Shrek" editions.

Idiosyncratic

One reason could be its failure to introduce a new and really idiosyncratic character on the *über*-droll level of Donkey and Puss in Boots. Yes, Justin Timberlake voices insecure heir to the throne Arthur, and Rupert Everett is super-smarmy as an utterly charmless Prince Charming, but neither of them can give Puss in Boots and Donkey a run for their punchlines.

On point of plotting, the Frog King finally kicks the bucket and Shrek is urged to step into his wide, wide shoes—but the ogre protests, because what he really wants to do is to go back to the smelly swamp from whence he came.

So, Shrek looks for Arthur, the *other* heir to the throne, who's hidden himself where he can't be found. But, Shrek and his friend are able to locate him and convince him to assume the throne of the kingdom of Far Far Away.

This really gets the goat of Prince Charming, who wants to become King more than anything else.

Conflict quotient

So, that's how the movie's conflict quotient shapes up: Shrek and the good guys defend the kingdom from the notoriously uncharming Prince Charming and his army of even nastier witches, goons, and horrific walking trees.

One of the sequel's side interests is wickedly spoofing the "sweet" leading ladies of famous fairy tales—Cinderella, Snow White, Rapunzel, etc.—and revealing that they *aren't* sweet at all! The "revelation" *is* amusing, but it is stretched so long that it ends up as leaden as an incessant and peevish private joke.

A subplot involves Shrek's unwillingness to become a daddy, because he doesn't think that he'll be good at it. But, his reticence is rendered moot and academic when Princes Fiona gets pregnant.

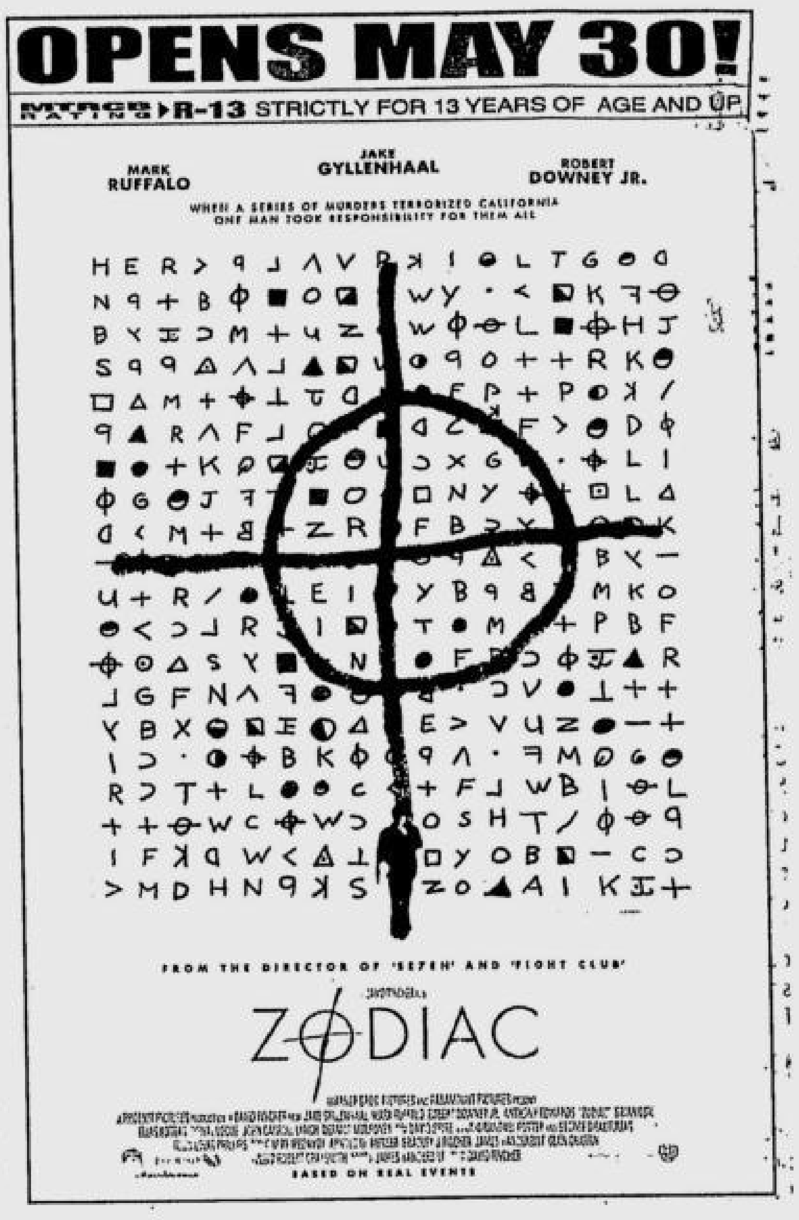
Shrek has nightmares about how awesomely inept he'll be as a father—and what monsters his gazillions of brat-babies will turn out to be. —Another bemusing comic conceit, but it too overstays its welcome.

One bright light is the zany character of Merlin the Magician, whose magical powers get comically out of kilter at the worst possible times. Too bad, however, he isn't made to interact much with Donkey and Puss in Boots.

Stellar sidekicks

Speaking of Shrek's two stellar sidekicks, they have a funny interlude when a magic spell gone wrong makes them exchange identities. This is initially risible, but the bright idea isn't developed creatively enough, so it doesn't end up as one of the sequel's highlights.

—Which is not to say that "Shrek 3" isn't entertaining. It has its share of droll moments and hilarious misadventures—but they aren't freshly inventive enough to enable "Shrek 3" to sustain the film franchise's upward trajectory.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Sparks fly high in 'AI' finals

By Nestor U. Torre

WAS IT ALL OVER BUT FOR THE SHOUTing? Last Wednesday on "American Idol," "final-finalists" Blake Lewis and Jordin Sparks squared off for the singing tilt's much-coveted title, and it looked like Jordin had the competition all wrapped up.

Jurors Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell appeared to concur with the general observation, as Blake had a hard time matching Jordin's vocal prowess, and resigned himself to doing his "beat box" best.

Brightest hopes

But, Jordin couldn't start celebrating just yet. There was always the great, big question mark of how the show's *voters* would go. In the past, they have the been known to sustain unsustainable dreams (Sanjaya's), or grimly sunder deserving champions' brightest hopes (Katharine McPhee, Melinda Doolittle).

So, we had to wait for the tilt's "revelation" episode at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, for the confirming voters' verdict to write in stone what many viewers already felt in their hearts: That Jordin Sparks was indeed the 2007 American Idol.

While waiting for that beatific confirmation—or its dismal refutation—we reviewed the highlights of the final performance show last Wednesday and came up with these realizations:

Result

The performance finals were less exciting than some previous editions, because Jordin and Blake, while very talented, were too young to come up with truly memorable performances. As a result, the May 23 show didn't have a "finals" feel to it.

It really wasn't the two remaining finalists' "fault," and they did sing their hearts out. But their "ultimate" performances fell short of the rousing numbers' performed by the likes of Fantasia Barrino and even McPhee.

The performance finals' staging was also a problem, because it was rather spare and perfunctory, with little of the visual pizzazz and variety associated with such a definitive event.

Then, too, the jurors' clear preference for Jordin made the proceedings even more anticlimactic than they already were. —On the *other* hand, their "favoritism" could have irked Blake's cadre of fans enough for them to redouble their efforts to push him into the winner's spot with their "rebuttal" votes.

Well, all of these speculations were laid to rest the following day, when the millions of votes were tallied—and, in a star-studded, two-hour show, Jordin Sparks was declared 2007's "American Idol"!

So, it's official: "American Idol" has found its youngest champion in 17-year-old Jordin. This is a major departure from last year, when the tilt's ultimate idol was one of its most senior finalists, 29-year-old Taylor Hicks.

Major change

Does the 12-year shift indicate a major change in the world's most popular talent search? Could Hicks' less than spectacular showing after his victory have anything to do with the key adjustment?

The way we see it, the show's viewer-voters have reminded themselves that the tilt is primarily a search for singing *stars*. So, aside from talent, their chosen winners should have stellar looks and appeal going for them. Jordin Sparks may be young and inexperienced, but she *is* a star in the making, so American Idol-hood is rightfully hers!

WINNING moment for newest Idol.

APOSTOL (WITH SARI AND MAAN HONTIVEROS). Support for a dear friend.

For a good cause

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE PRICEY DINNER AT Valle Verde IV was for a good cause: To "buy" back the health of a colleague who's now undergoing rehab from diabetic attack.

Melchi, the chef of PDI editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, prepared a delicious dinner for friends from Women in Media and for victors of the May 14 polls: Sen. Loren Legarda, Sen. Manny Villar and wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, Manila's incoming Mayor Alfredo Lim, Gina de Venecia and hubby, Rep. Jose de Venecia, Presidential Management Staff's Serge Remonde, airport manager Rafael Cusi, Environment Secretary Angie Reyes, Senate President Frank Drillon and Charito Planas (who was with her kid, "Biyaya").

Two paintings

Deedee Siytangco, who acted as "Solicitor General," was assisted by Joan Orendain, who also played the piano. Auctioned off were paintings by Joya and Buenaventura. It was a win-win evening for everyone—and there was an outpouring of love for our recovering friend.

Chris Medina played the piano and sang "Summertime." Singing along with him were Maan Hontiveros, Eggie Apostol, Aida Sevilla-Mendoza, Rosan Cruz, Tata Poblado and Donnie Ramirez.

* * *

Health is wealth! It's important to remember that you are what you eat. Walking 45 minutes a day is good exercise. I lost 24 pounds since I took this course of action, eating only half of the food I used to take—mostly veggies, fish and fruits. It requires discipline to eat correctly.

* * *

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E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.

Donita Rose stands by her friends

By Rito P. Asilo

LOOKING AT A BEAMING DONITA ROSE WAS a breath of fresh air when we met her for this interview. The 32-year-old actress-host has barely aged since she made her big-screen debut in the '90s—she's fresh, warm and radiant as ever!

She's in town to promote the telecast of "Boracay '007," the two-part documentary which she co-hosts with Alvin Anson, Tracy Abad, Joey Agustin and Koy Rivera, about the beautiful island paradise in the Visayas (it will be telecast on TFC all over the world tomorrow).

Donita surprised the country when, from out of the blue, she landed a dream job in Singapore in 1998—as MTV Southeast Asia's's top VJ!

After a five-year stint on the popular music channel, she's now busy hosting the new hour-long talk show, "U Turn," on UniversiTV, a new channel seen locally on free TV channel 33 (and on Skycable's channel 5 and Destiny's channel 32).

Marital woes

Her two best friends—Ruffa Gutierrez and DJ Mo Twister—have recently been in the spotlight, the former for her much-publicized marital woes, and the latter for his controversial radio morning show, "Good Times," on Magic 89.9 on the FM band.

Are Ruffa and Mo good friends, too? Donita seems to have a very different personality from the two. It's obvious from her answers that she stands by her controversial friends. She shares, "They're not close, but I am close to them—they're my best friends! Yes, we have different personalities. But, my friendship with Ruffa developed over time.

"When I joined 'That's Entertainment,' she was the one who made me feel at ease!

"One time, she lent me a pair of three-karat earrings that were worth millions to go with the dress that I was going to wear for a special occasion. I told her I didn't like borrowing things, but she insisted, so I did. The next day, somebody took one piece and I was devastated! When I told her, 'I know I can't pay you now, but I promise I will pay you eventually!' She looked at me and said, 'I know you won't do anything to hurt me. Don't worry about it—it's just money!' I knew then that she was going to be my best friend for life—and I 'found' the earring the following day!

"So, when she went through a major crisis in her career in the '90s, I wanted to be there for her! We've been friends for almost 14 years now. We can look at every trial as something that can make us better. It's like gold—when you put it in the fire, the heat burns away all the impurities, and all you're left with is gold!"

What do she and Mo Twister have in common? Donita replies: "When I met Mo, he told me that his dream was to become a DJ, and I told him mine was to become a VJ—that's what we shared. He got his dream first when he joined 89.9. As for the DJ's currently controversial radio program, she muses: "He doesn't mean any harm—he's just honest and very direct. I've already been on his radio show's hot seat, but he was 'careful' with me. His guests have a choice not to answer those revealing questions if they don't want to."

Most memorable

What were her most memorable MTV moments? She muses: "I don't want to put people down, but I've met a lot of celebrities who were stuck up. But meeting Bon Jovi was special! I was shaking as I apologized to them for being so nervous, and they were helpful and kind."

But, the down-to-earth actress hasn't always been the sweet, young thing we've always known her to be—and she wants people to learn from her mistakes. She shares, "There are things people don't know about me. I just have a very *maamo* face. But, before MTV, I also went through a rebellious phase. The person I am today is very different from who I was then—then, God gave me a wake-up call, and my life made a complete turnaround!"

DONITA. Also went through a rebellious phase.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Regina Spektor is full of surprises

By Noelani Torre

THE ONLY ABSOLUTE THING YOU CAN SAY about Regina Spektor's newest album, "Begin to Hope," is that it's full of surprises. But, those familiar with the Russian-American singer-songwriter's work know that to listen to Spektor is to expect the unexpected.

Sentimental title

For those unfamiliar with her music, be warned: Her second major-label release is misleading. The seemingly sentimental title and the cute picture of the artist on the cover will have you thinking easy-listening and adult contemporary.

Indeed, one minute into the first song, everything sounds like your usual radio-friendly number-light, synthesized and easily "digestible." Before the minute is over, however, you'll get your first hint of Spektor's idiosyncratic style when you hear her chop the word "heart" into a dozen syllables!

Notwithstanding the individual touches, "Fidelity" has a conventionality that, though only skin-deep, will no doubt attract listeners leery of anything with an experimental label. The second track, "Better" (with The Strokes' Nick Valensi on guitars), is even "prettier." A bright, radio-friendly number, it's followed by "Samson," which is where the album takes a turn for the (even more) interesting.

In "Samson," Spektor breaks away from the surrounding prettiness and ventures into brilliance. Hushed, austere, and quite simply heartbreaking, it showcases the singer's penchant for quirky lyrics, mentioning wonder bread and the Bible in almost the same breath.

She takes it even further in lead single, "On the Radio," a song imbued with pop sensibilities, which it transcends at the same time. Though not usually classified as pop (music observers say she belongs to the anti-folk crowd), Spektor displays an uncanny ability for fashioning melodies that will wind themselves inside you—they are hard to shake off!

regina spektor

SPEKTOR. Expect the unexpected.

Nickelodeon's Preview Party at Aliw Theater

FOR AN EXCLUSIVE PEEK INTO what's happening in the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards in Hollywood, local Nickheads are invited to a Preview Party at the Aliw Theater, Star City Complex at 1 p.m. today. If you want to know this year's Pinoy Wannabe Awardee, be there—or you'll miss out on all the action! Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards have emerged as the only tilt that gives kids the power to vote for their favorites in movies, television, music and sports, and honors their choices with a live show filled with the stars they love. Pinoy Wannabe nominees are Christian Bautista, John Lloyd Cruz, Angel Locsin, Makisig Morales and Lea Salonga.

'Ocean's Thirteen'

The new heist comedy, "Ocean's Thirteen," holds its invitational gala premiere on May 29 at Glorietta 4. The fun film reunites George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Andy Garcia, Don Cheadle, Casey Affleck and Scott Caan, while Al Pacino joins the cast as Willy Bank, and Ellen Barkin plays his right-hand woman.

MONTAGE

'All the Usual Suspects'

At 9 p.m. today, the Ricco Renzo Gallery at the LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia st., Makati City presents an evening of performed poetry. The event, titled "All the Usual Suspects," features Cesare & the Electric Underground Collective.

SUN CELLULAR

JAY-R. Performed songs from his album in Koronadal City.

Sun Cellular in Mindanao

Sun Cellular recently "invaded" the cities of Koronadal in South Cotabato and Tagum in Davao to showcase its increased network capacity and expanded coverage in more provinces and cities in the south.

In Koronadal City, Jay-R staged an electrifying concert featuring songs from his albums. The Sun cellular booth also offered free Messenger downloads and calls to overseas destination using Sun's IDD Top 10 service.

In Tagum City, Sun Cellular gave away three Nokia cell phones, among other prizes, in celebration of "Araw ng Tagum." Local bands performed as Sun's various products, including Call and Text Unlimited P25, were promoted. Log on to www.suncellular.com.ph or call 395-8000.

RJ Jimenez

"Pinoy Dream Academy" alumnus RJ Jimenez performs on May 31 at the Teatrino at Greenhills' Promenade, in his first major concert, "Project: RJMNZ." He will debut some of his latest compositions, play the guitar, and perform covers of some of his favorite songs. Call 0917642-1313 for reservations.

ManoMano sale

The Manomano Fair Trade Store of Safrudi (Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Development Inc.) is celebrating its first anniversary this month with a big sale of its beautiful and unique Philippine handicrafts (until June 16).

ManoMano has become a favored stop for shoppers and lovers of Philippine handicrafts because of the originality and high quality of its products.

Today, Safrudi will celebrate World Fair Trade Day. There will be on-the-spot art and craft contests and other educational activities for children in line with this year's theme, "Kids Need Fair Trade." Call 564-4169.

Support ManoMano's fine handicrafts and fair trade initiatives by availing of its big first anniversary sale at 2594 Lamayan st., Sta. Ana, Manila.

JIMENEZ (CENTER, WITH FRIENDS). First major concert at Teatrino.

Mark Bautista in concert

After launching his third studio album, Mark Bautista returns to the concert stage in "ReMARKable" on June 1 at Club O (formerly Dish), ABS-CBN compound. His guests are Rachelle Ann Go and Yeng Constantino. Call 413-0614.

NVC's 'Faces, Phases' at RCBC on May 29

The Actor's Studio of the New Voice Company will present "Faces, Phases," a series of scenes featuring professional actors and talented newcomers who are part of NVC's special workshop series this summer, at the RCBC Theater on May 29 at 7 p.m. Rito Asilo directs. Call 896-5497 or 896-6695.

Sta. Lucia East anniversary

Sta. Lucia East has lined up special events to celebrate its 16th year: Today, finalists of the "Search for Little Stars," "Sexy Body," and "Generation East" talent competitions will grace the mall's Flores de Mayo. Tomorrow, the finals of the "Search for Little Stars 2007" will have "StarStruck's" Prince Stefan as special guest. Call 681-5401 loc. 118.

New titles from MSV

This summer, Bookware Publishing is releasing titles like "Mischievous Fate" and "Be My Groom." Call 631-8894.

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SATURDAY Special

BERNAL. The well-liked filmmaker is also a topnotch editor.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Joyce Bernal wants to explore other film genres

By Ronald G. Mangubat

"THERE'S MORE GRIT IN my life now," director Joyce Bernal confesses as she sips tea inside an editing room at post-production house, Roadrunner. "I want this reflected onscreen. I want to make a film that tackles rage, and I imagine it to be a bold drama!"

After directing 16 films in more than a decade, *direk* Joyce has come to the conclusion that one of the most difficult scenes to mount is a bold film with torrid, kissing scenes.

"It's difficult, especially if you want to send a subtle message," the 39-year-old lady director emphasizes. "But, I'm known for my kissing scenes," she proudly declares.

Wacky comedies

Known for her wacky comedies and cheesy love stories starring Vhong Navarro ("Mr. Suave," "Agent X-44"), Rufa Mae Quinto ("Booba"), and Regine Velasquez ("Pangako sa 'Yo," "Kailangan Kita"), Bernal is also admired by critics, because she edits her own films. In fact, she started as a topnotch editor before Viva's Vic del Rosario gave her the break to direct movies.

After doing a slew of comedies and romantic dramas, Bernal says she wants to explore other genres. "I can also do action, horror, or even a gay film," she declares.

In this interview, the outspoken director, reveals her wild and wacky side as she shares anecdotes about her earlier days as a film editor, and how she sees herself 10 years from now—either as a nurse in the US or a waitress serving coffee at Starbucks! Excerpts:

What was your first film as director?

Viva's "I'm Sorry, My Love," starring Judy Ann Santos and Onemig Bondoc.

What did Vic del Rosario see in you that he gave you the break? Was it a nerve-wracking experience?

I used to edit a lot of film trailers for Viva. Boss Vic was the think-tank behind those glossy trailers, so I think he saw the quality and aesthetics of my work. In "I'm sorry," I tried to prepare a shot list the night before the first shoot, *pero wala akong nagawa*! When I went to the shoot and saw everybody—the crew, the staff, the equipment—that was when it sank in! I think the secret to a seamless production is to surround yourself with the best people—I had the best cinematographer, production designer, etc. They were all veterans. *Ako lang ang boba dun*!

Did you edit all your films?

Usually, I would edit the first cut. Later, when I was already making two films at a time, I felt I needed an outsider's perspective. But, I still do the final edit.

What is the advantage of being an editor and director at the same time?

During the editing phase, when you're trying to piece everything together, you are again steering the direction of the movie. You can focus on a particular character, change the pacing, and you can remedy awkward scenes to make the film better.

Tell us about your new film starring Regine Velasquez and Piolo Pascual.

"Paano Kita Iibigin?" is a love story between a man (Piolo) with "survivor's guilt" and a problematic single mom (Regine), who mouths this line: *"Ang sakit mong mahalin!"* That line, for me, is the crux of the story. *May mga taong masakit mahalin.*

How faithful are you to the script?

I change lines to make them more appropriate to any given setting. I also talk to my actors and ask them: If you were the character, would say this line?

What gets you upset?

When there's a requirement, and people tell me they can't produce it on the day it's needed. If I had known the problem at least two days earlier, I'd have time to change my tack. I get pissed off if I'm not told about the problem right away. I don't mind tardy actors—*kasi*, you report to the shooting early *nga*, but you don't know *naman pala* what you're supposed to do, so *wala rin*!\

Chemistry

You really have chemistry with Vhong Navarro . . .

We're like Dolphy and Panchito. When we see each other, we share an energy that can't be broken. We understand each other, and respect each other's artistry—it's really collaborative! I can honestly admit that the films I did with Vhong, I can't take full credit for.

Most of your films tackle women's empowerment...

I always tell women that they shouldn't wait for men to court them. If they like someone, they should be brave enough to tell him. If they want to kiss their men, they shouldn't be afraid to do it!

Who are your role models?

In Hollywood, it's Martin Scorsese. When he finally won an Oscar, I cried. *Lalaking-lalaki syang mag*-direct. His films are dark. *Kung patayan, patayan talaga!* I also like him because I idolize his editor, Thelma Schoonmaker. Despite her old age, she can still edit superbly! *Sana ganun din ako!* In local films, I like Chito Roño. He's very smart and utilizes his technical know-how to great effect.

How can you tell if a director is good?

When he can make his characters appear acutely real onscreen—which isn't easy! There are directors *na nahahalata*

JOYCE/ G2

NOW SHOWING

Rousing third act for convoluted 'Pirates' finale

By Rito P. Asilo

"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"

D: Gore Verbinski

S: Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Chow Yun-Fat

IN GORE VERBINSKI'S THIRD INSTALLMENT of Disney's smash fantasy-adventure series, the nine Pirate Lords from the four corners of the world must band together when piracy faces extinction in the hands—alright, tentacles—of Davy Jones (Bill Nighy). The cursed commander of the ghost ship, The Flying Dutchman, has formed an unlikely alliance with the greedy Lord Cutler Beckett (Tom Hollander), who hides Jones' heart in a guarded black chest (and thus assures his loyalty), for the sole control of the Seven Seas.

Problem is, Jack Sparrow (the delightful Johnny Depp), an important member of the Nine Lords of the Brethren Court, is still a prisoner in Davy Jones' Locker. So, after their high-octane run-in with the cunning Sao Feng (Chow Yun-Fat) in exotic Singapore, Elizabeth (Keira Knightley), Will (Orlando Bloom) and Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) sail off to rescue Jack from the clutches of the Kraken. At world's end, however, each of them must decide which side they're really on as things draw to a close. Indeed, taking a stand is a tricky thing.

After the lengthy and negligible (read: boring) first sequel, Verbinski steers the franchise to a rousing—albeit still protracted—finale packed with madcap, aww-shucks humor and eye-popping visual thrills, notably the jaw-dropping sequence in the desert where Jack's vessel, The Black Pearl, is carried on the back of thousands of crabs as it wades through white sand. Whoa!

But, while the film, which was shot for a grueling 251 days, consciously irons out some character sketches (and, along the way, gives them a semblance of intimacy) as it winds down its blockbusting story, it's also apparent the 43-year-old director doesn't subscribe to the "less is more" school of thought—he fills the franchise's slam-bang finale with a confounding number of subplots and mind-boggling details that only manage to clutter the narrative proceedings. Result: The movie clocks in at 2 hours and 48 minutes!

ROUSING/ G2

KNIGHTLEY, RUSH AND DEPP. Reprise roles in second sequel of popular trilogy.

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1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 WHISPER 12:20 2:45
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3 5:05 8:15

5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30

6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
1:25 4:35 7:45

7 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
12:10 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30

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11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

4 FRACTURE 12:30 2:50
WHISPER 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:10 2:35 6:00 9:25

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11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

4 SPIDER-MAN 3
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5 FRACTURE 12:30 2:45
WHISPER 5:10 7:00 9:00

6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3:10 6:20

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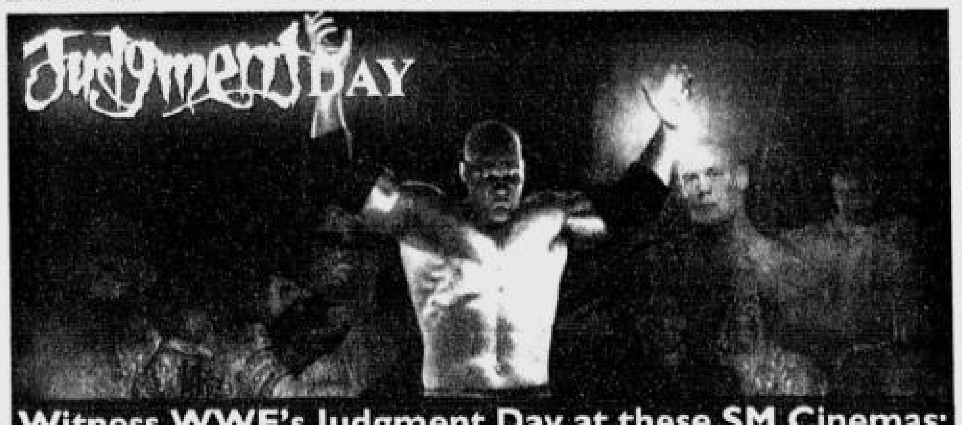

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2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SHREK 3

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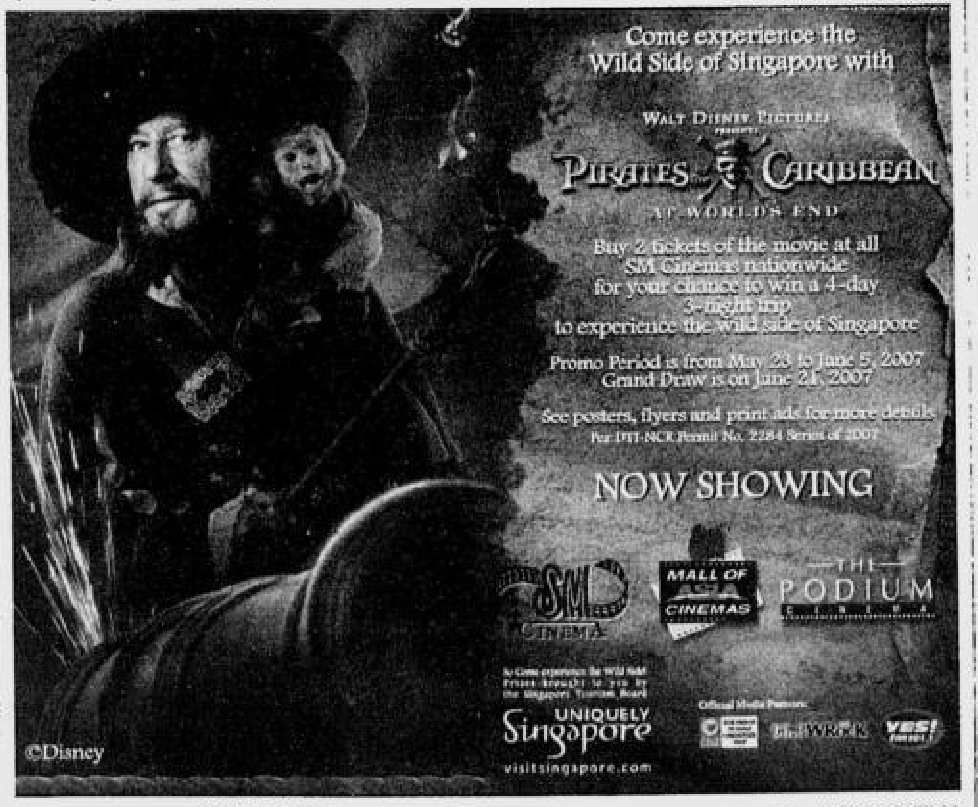

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3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 28 WEEKS LATER
8 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 LUCKY YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SUNSHINE
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHREK 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 LUCKY YOU
5 SHREK 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

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SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SUNSHINE
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100

1 SHREK 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3676

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 FIREHOUSE DOG
5 SHREK 3
6 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 SUNSHINE/ SPIDER-MAN 3

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Joyce Bernal

From page G1

mo kung tinatamad sila. There are films that don't require you to be too "artsy" with your shots or angles, because the material is already meaty. There are films *naman na kailangan, malandi ang* camerawork, which is true in the case of love stories.

What's the story behind the "Bb. Joyce Bernal" moniker?

Isa lang yan sa kagagahan ko nung nag-e-edit ako. I was doing the Sharon Cuneta-Cesar Montano movie, and I used it to surprise Cesar and Sharon. *Tawa sila ng tawa.* Since then, if I like the film, *nilalagyan ko ng* "Bb." (Laughs)

Advice

Any advice to young filmmakers?

They have to live and experience life—including its pains! Many stories are the same: Boy meets girl, they fall in love, they separate, and they get back together. When you don't have enough experience, your film will be hollow. They have to be open—they must learn how to listen and collaborate.

How do you imagine yourself 10 years from now?

Feeling ko, nurse *na ako sa* US, *tapos nagta-trabaho na ako sa* Starbucks on the side (laughs). I don't plan my life—I live for the moment!

Rousing third act

From page G1

Verbinski even includes what must be one of the shortest courtship *cum* marriage proposal *cum* engagement *cum* wedding scenes in screen history—an adrenaline-pumped "romantic" sequence (between Will and Liz) that happens in the middle of the film's climactic fight scene!

Watching "At World's End" is like going to a circus: You remember the heady thrill and chill of the roller-coaster ride—but not much else! Nevertheless, the formula has consistently proven its crowd-pleasing mettle and magic at the box office, so who cares about focus and coherence—right, Jerry Bruckheimer?

Chow and Rush figure in a number of scene-stealing moments, as does Rolling Stones' Keith Richards (who makes a flashy cameo as Jack's father). But, as with "The Curse of the Black Pearl" and "Dead Man's Chest," it's Depp who chews up the scenery, and without much effort!

Who needs Knightley's beauty or Bloom's brawn if you have the 43-year-old actor's bewitching bravado?

DEPP. Bewitching bravado.

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CINEMA 1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 10:30 , 2:00 , 5:30 9:00 GP

CINEMA 2 SHREK 03 10:35 , 12:40 , 2:45 4:50 , 6:55 , 9:00 GP

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GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 SHREK 03 // PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 11:35 , 1:40 , 3:45 5:50 , 7:55 , 10:00 // 11:45 GP

CINEMA 4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 11:25 , 2:55 , 6:25 10:00 GP

CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 12:15 , 3:45 , 7:15 10:45 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

May 26 , 2007	OGIE ALCASID & SITTI	8:00 PM
June 15 & 16 , 2007	Rico J. Puno & Mitch Valdez	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
May 31 , 2007	RJ Jimenez	8:30 PM
May 25 , 2007	Drag - Ons	9:00 PM
June 15 , 2007	Champion of the World (Jed Madela)	8:30 PM

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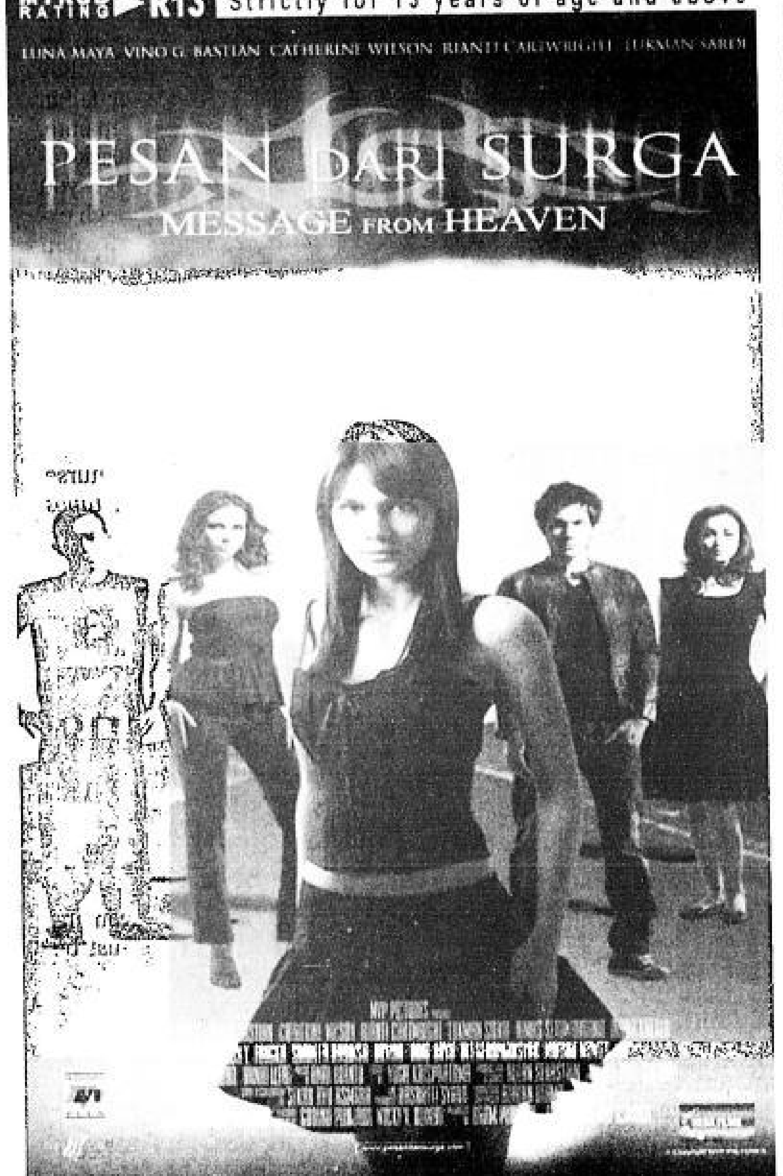
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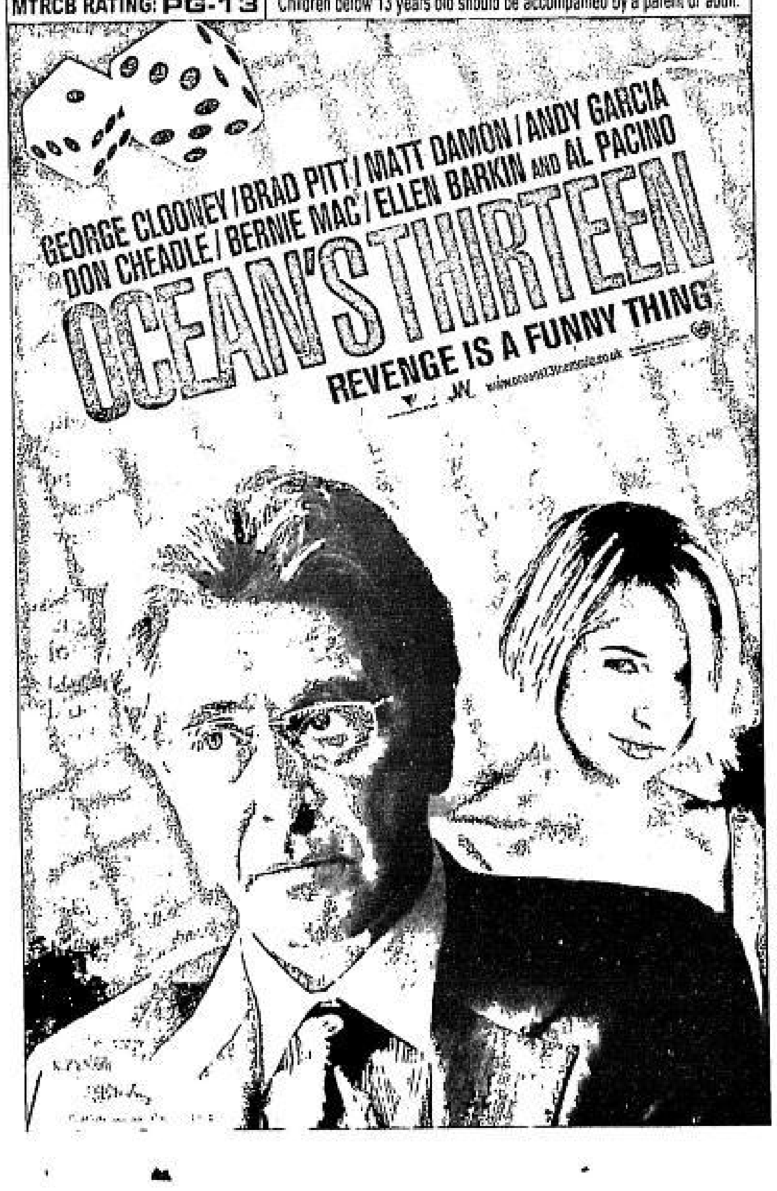
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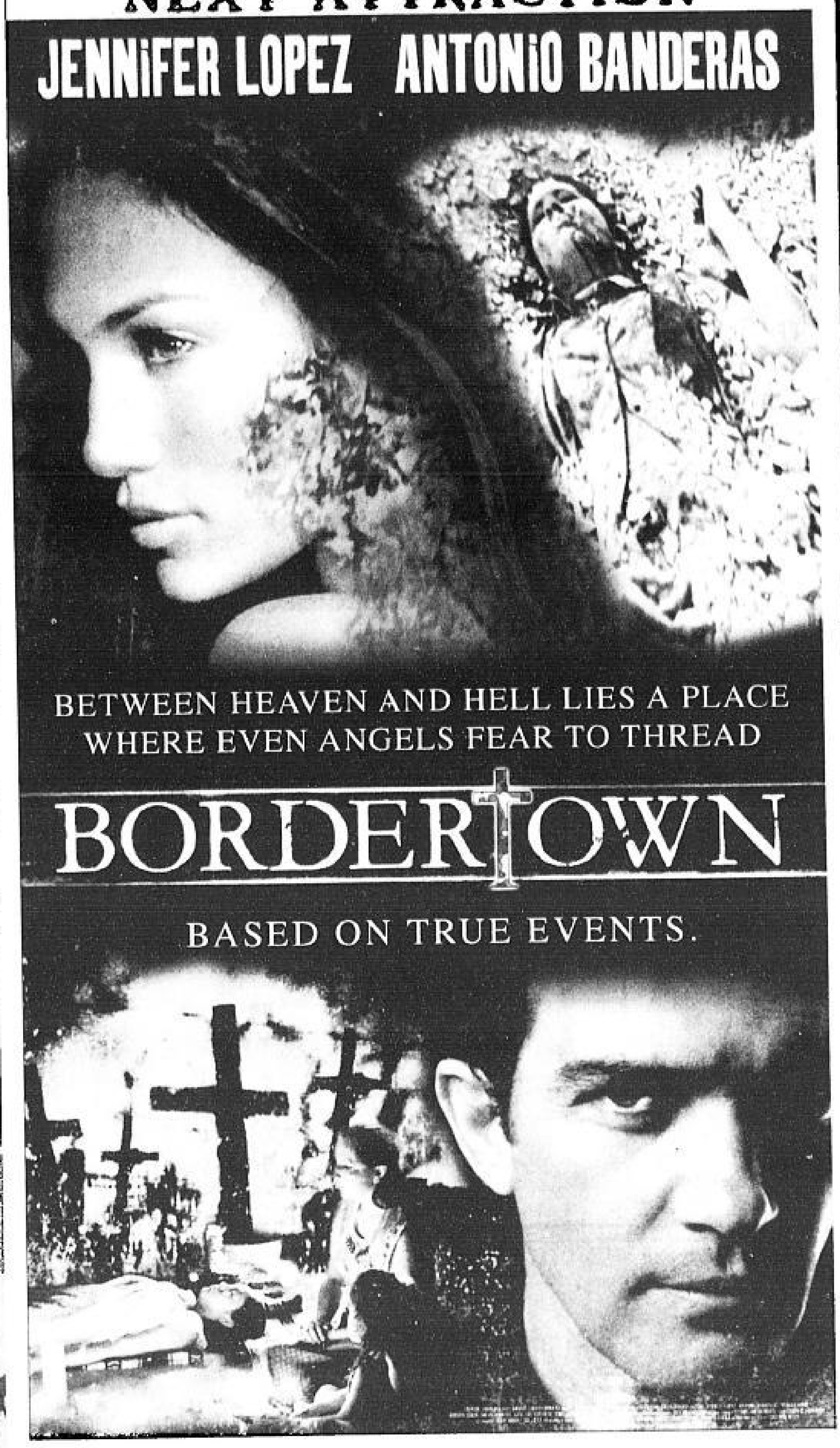
DON CHEADLE / BERNIE MAC / ELLEN BARKIN AND AL PACINO
OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
REVENGE IS A FUNNY THING

NEXT ATTRACTION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Gateway CinePlex*10

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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
10:30 / 11:35 / 12:10 / 12:40
1:50 / 2:55 / 3:30 / 4:00
5:10 / 6:15 / 6:50 / 7:20
8:30 / 9:35 / 10:10 / 10:40

SPIDERMAN 3
1:30 / 4:20 / 7:10 / 10:00

SHREK 3
1:00 / 2:05 / 3:00 / 4:35 / 5:00
7:00 / 7:05 / 9:00 / 9:35

FRACTURE
7:15 / 9:40

WHISPER
1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40

WWE: JUDGEMENT DAY
11:00 / 2:30

PLATINUM CINEMA

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
11:00 / 2:20 / 5:40 / 9:00

Animall 5

1	SHREK 3	12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3	12:40 / 3:50 / 7:00
3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3	11:30 / 2:40 / 5:50 / 9:00
4	MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN	12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
5	SPIDERMAN 3	12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30

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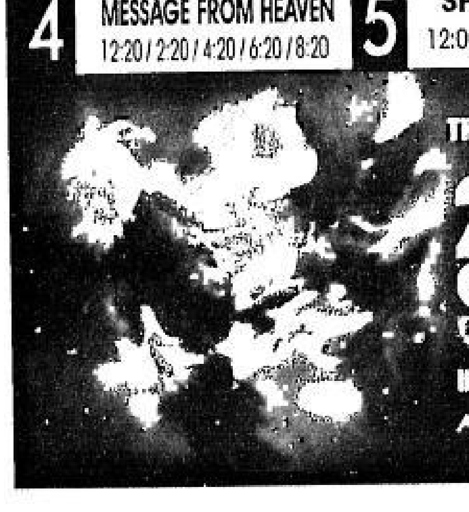

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MOVIE GUIDE

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SHREK THE THIRD
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

PREVIERE

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 SHREK THE THIRD

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266159

3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433694

1 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

THEATRES

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
SHREK THE THIRD
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RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
8 SHREK THE THIRD
9 SPIDER-MAN-3
10 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 SHREK THE THIRD
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SHREK THE THIRD
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
5 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 CONDEMNED
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SHREK THE THIRD
4 SPIDER-MAN-3 / LUCKY YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 TURISTAS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 SHREK THE THIRD
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 SHREK THE THIRD
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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1 THE HILLS OF EYES
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SHREK THE THIRD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 THE CONDEMNED
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 RAMPADORA
3 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
4 THE CONDEMNED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 HANNIBAL RISING
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 FIREHOUSE DOG
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

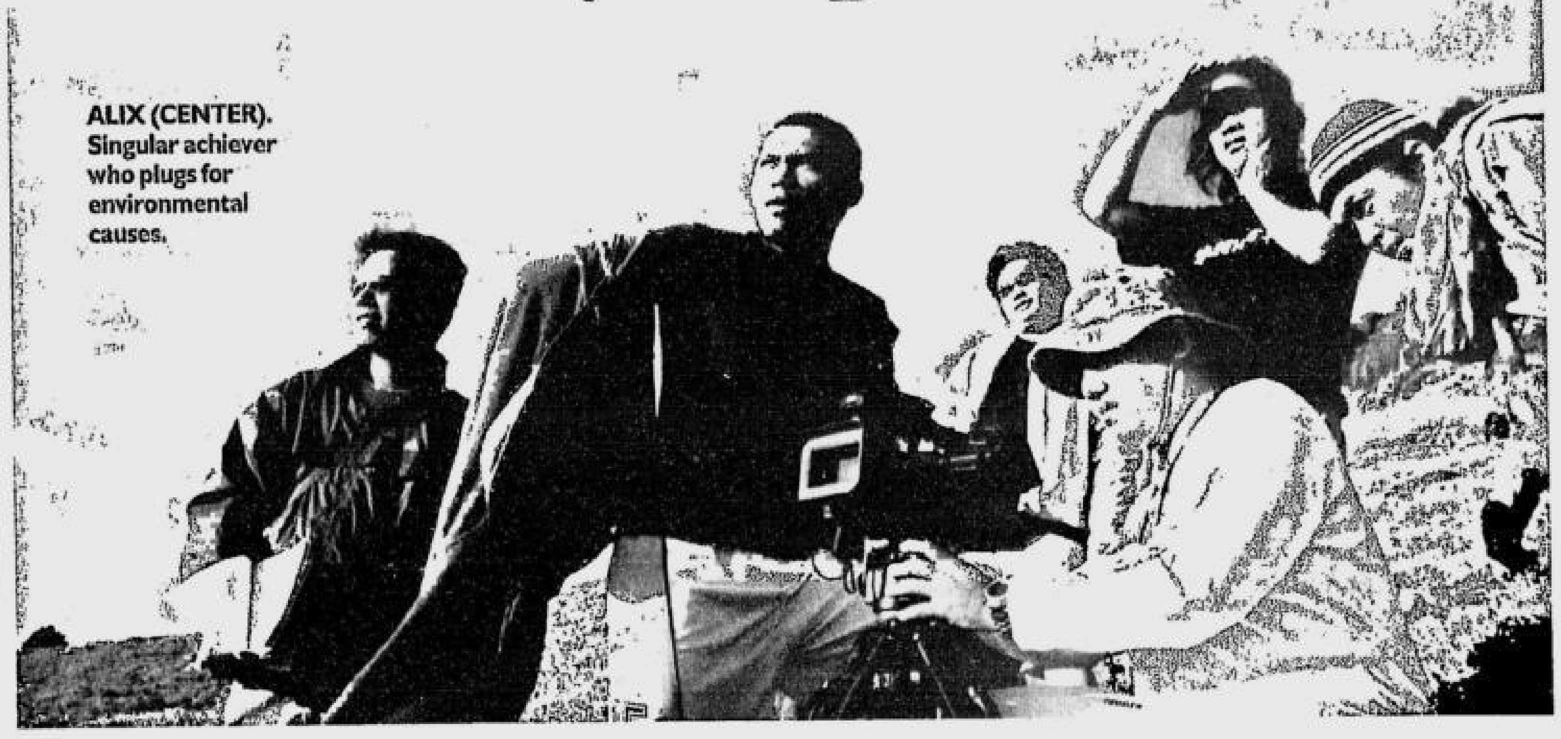
Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
2 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Alix's 'Kadin' vivifies the beauty and power of nature

By Nestor U. Torre



ALIX (CENTER). Singular achiever who plugs for environmental causes.

WHEN WE FIRST MET ADOLF Alix Jr., he was one of the youngest members of our screenwriting workshop for the Film Development Foundation.

At only 16, he was a complete tyro—and yet, he managed to stand out. That early, we thought he would do well as a film artist—but his subsequent achievements in the field have exceeded our expectations.

Adolf started to prove his worth earlier than expected: He joined the foundation's annual full-length screenplay competition—and, at only 17, won first place!

Arduous task

Therein lies another tale: As a judge in the competition, I was given the arduous task of reading all of the more than 100 entries and cutting their number down to the better 50, which the next panel of jurors would then vote on.

Since I took my job seriously, I spent a lot of time reading all of those entries, the identities of whose writers were withheld from me. Then, it was time for me to decide on the "surviving" 50.

Choosing the best 40 wasn't a problem. But there were so many good scripts vying for those last 10 slots that I had to reread the 20-plus "possibles" to come up with the final 10.

Would you believe? By the time I had chosen 49 scripts, there were still some five screenplays vying for the last slot! So, I had to "re-reread" all five. Then, I made up my mind, and chose the 50th "survivor." That, I thought, was that, as I handed the 50 scripts to the next panel of jurors.

A couple of months later, the judges announced their choices, and I was pleasantly surprised, because they had chosen as top winner—my *final* choice for inclusion, which, it turned out, was written by Adolf!

Winning script

That's what started it: Adolf's winning script was picked up by Reynafilms and became the film, "Kahapon, May Dalawang Bata."

After that, Alix also took up directing and started cowriting screenplays for some Gil Portes productions.

Then came Cinemalaya, and I was again tapped to select the 10 best scripts that would each be given a P500,000 production grant. One of the Top 10, a script about the *butanding*, turned out to again be written by Adolf, who also made known his decision to direct it.

Months passed, and we finally saw all of the entries as finished films. Adolf's movie, "Donsol," was unique because it plugged for environmental protection, among other themes and objectives. We also noted that, in terms of direction, Adolf's film came second-best in the 2006 festival, surpassed only by Mike Sandejas' "Tulad ng Dati."

Entries

Then, late last year, we read a record number of story entries for the 2007 Cinemalaya, and another story by Adolf, "Kadin (The Goat)," turned out to again be among the finalists.

We were gratified to see that, like his 2006 movie, "Kadin" also plugged for the environment—not in a hortatory manner, but simply because its setting was the Batanes islands, one of the few places in the Philippines where nature still reigns triumphantly supreme.

Two environmental films in a row—that's a singular achievement for the young writer-director. To our mind, it makes him unique, and a bracing example for other young filmmakers who want to make a positive difference in the world.

FIRST-TIME actors, Mark Cardona and Monica Camarillas, play the young protagonists in "Kadin."

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1 SHREK 3
1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50
G

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
12:40, 4:10, 7:50, 11:30
G

3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
12:00, 3:30, 7:10, 10:50
G

4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3
11:30, 2:50, 6:30, 10:10
G

SHANG CINEPLEX
① PIRATES OF THE CARIBBBEAN 3 (GP)
12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00
② PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP)
1:00, 4:20, 7:40
③ SHREK 3 (GP)
11:30, 1:30, 3:30
5:30, 7:30, 9:30
④ PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP)
2:00, 5:20, 8:40
PREMIERE THEATRE PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP) 11:30, 2:50, 6:10, 9:30
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DOLBY DIGITAL

PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 G 2:20,5:40,9:00	SHREK 3 G 1:20,3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 G 1:30,4:50,8:10
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 G 11:50,3:10,6:30,9:50	SPIDER-MAN 3 G 12:50,3:50,6:50,9:50	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 G 12:40,4:00,7:20,10:40

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB Rating G General Audience All Ages Admitted
JOHNNY DEPP
ORLANDO BLOOM
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
CHOW YUN-FAT
GEOFFREY RUSH
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PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
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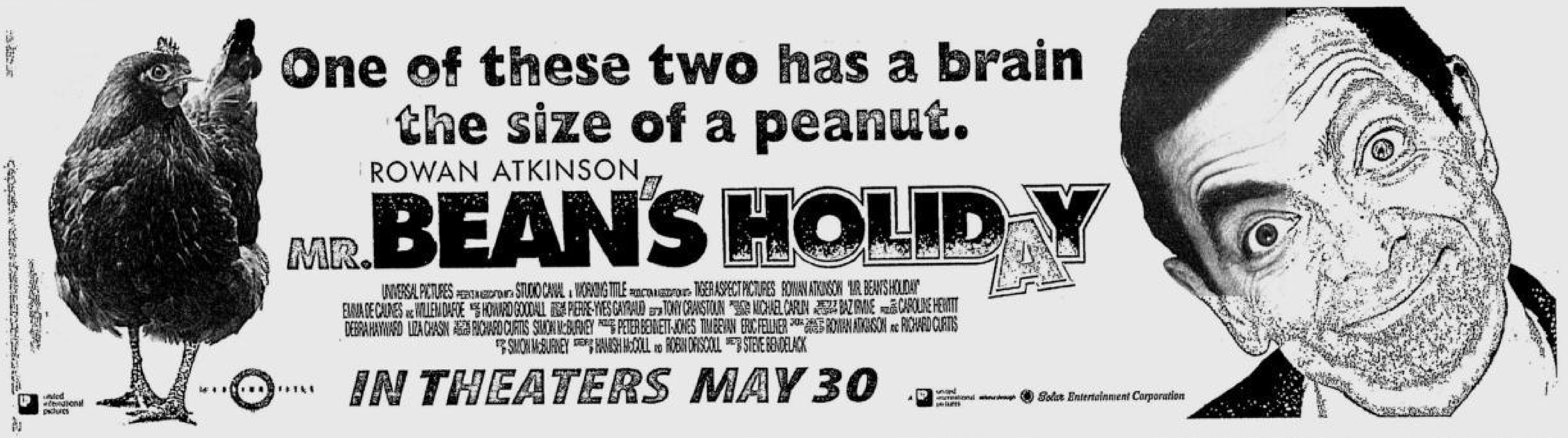
One of these two has a brain the size of a peanut.
ROWAN ATKINSON
MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
UNIVERSAL PICTURES STUDIO CANAL WORKING TITLE TIGER ASPECT PICTURES ROWAN ATKINSON "MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY"
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DEBRA HAYWARD LIZA CHASIN RICHARD CURTIS SIMON McBURNEY PETER BENNETT-JONES TIM BEVAN ERIC FELLNER ROWAN ATKINSON RICHARD CURTIS
SIMON McBURNEY HAMISH McCOLL ROBIN DRISCOLL STEVE BENDELACK
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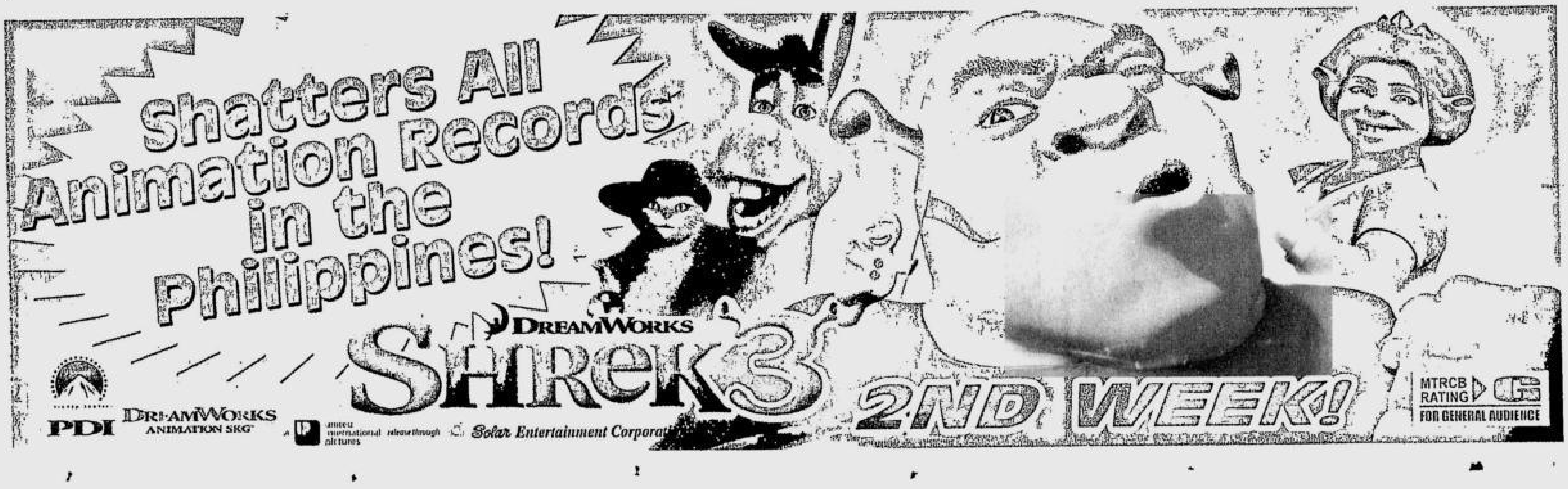
Shatters All Animation Records in the Philippines!
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SHREK 3
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